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ABSTRACT

Tennesseans were surveyed concerning criminal justice issues. The survey contained questions concerning punishment of criminals, fear of crime, effectiveness of the criminal justice system, history as a victim of crime, and public attitudes on several criminal justice issues, juvenile issues, and child abuse issues. The sample was randomly generated from the Tennessee Department of Safety's driver license database. A similar survey was conducted 10 years ago and a comparison of both surveys is included in this report. The survey was mailed to 2,434 Tennesseans. A total of 943 persons responded to the survey. Most of the respondents were white. Findings of the survey include: (1) most respondents (72%) believe everyone released from prison should be supervised; (2) 74% believe offenders should serve their entire sentence before release; (3) over half of the respondents were afraid to walk in an area within one mile of their home alone at night; (4) 32% of the respondents were victims of some crime during 1991; (5) 80% reported being a victim of a crime during their lifetime; (6) 83% thought public intoxication should be against the law; (7) 13% of the respondents had been victims of child abuse; and (8) 65% of the respondents were unaware that child care providers must be screened for prior child abuse convictions. (Results of the survey are presented in tables in the categories of punishment; fear of crime; how well is the criminal justice system working; crime events; public attitudes; juvenile issues; and child abuse issues.) (ABL)

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CRIME AND JUSTICE SURVEY RESULTS

TENNESSEE 1992

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Crime and Justice Survey Results

Tennessee 1992

Statistical Analysis Center
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

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Executive Summary

The Statistical Analysis Center surveyed Tennesseans concerning criminal justice issues. The survey contained questions concerning punishment of criminals, fear of crime, effectiveness of the criminal justice system, history as a victim of crime, and public attitudes on several criminal justice issues, juvenile issues, and child abuse issues. The sample was randomly generated from the Tennessee Department of Safety's driver license database. A similar survey was conducted ten years ago by the Department of Criminal Justice at Memphis State University, and a comparison of both surveys is included in this report.

The survey was mailed to 2,434 Tennesseans. A total of 943 responded to the survey. Two hundred and fifty-six (256) of the surveys were not deliverable; and six of the respondents were deceased, giving an adjusted response rate of 43%.

The difference between the number of females (470) and males (460) responding to the survey was small. Thirteen respondents did not indicate their sex. Most of the respondents were white (847) compared to 62 who were black, 20 of other races, and 13 who did not indicate their race.

Some of the findings of the survey are included in this summary. Please see the report for more detail on these and other findings. All percentages are based on the total number of 943 respondents; or when given by sex, 470 females and 460 males, unless otherwise noted.

Punishment

- Most respondents (72%) believe that everyone released from prison should be supervised.
- Seventy-four percent believed offenders should serve their entire sentence before release.
- Eighty-one percent were in favor of the death penalty as a punishment for convicted murderers, and 45% favored the death penalty for sexual abuse of children.

Fear of Crime

- Over half (56%) of the respondents were afraid to walk in an area within one mileof their home at night.
- Most of the persons surveyed (84%) were not afraid to be in their home alone at night.

Victims of Crime

- Thirty-two percent of the respondents were victims of some type of crime in 1991. Almost 8% reported being victims of a violent crime during the year.
- Eighty percent reported being a victim of a crime in their lifetime, and 37% were victims of a violent crime.

Public Attitudes

- Gambling should be legal according to 42% of the respondents.
- Half of the respondents (50%) thought abortion should be legal.
- Prostitution should be illegal according to 73% of the respondents.
- Seventy-two percent thought that the use of marijuana should be illegal.
- Eighty-three percent thought public intoxication should be against the law.
- Most of the respondents (93%) believed criminals should be blamed for their actions.
- A person convicted of rape should not be released on bond while their conviction is being appealed according to 91% of the respondents.

Child Abuse Issues

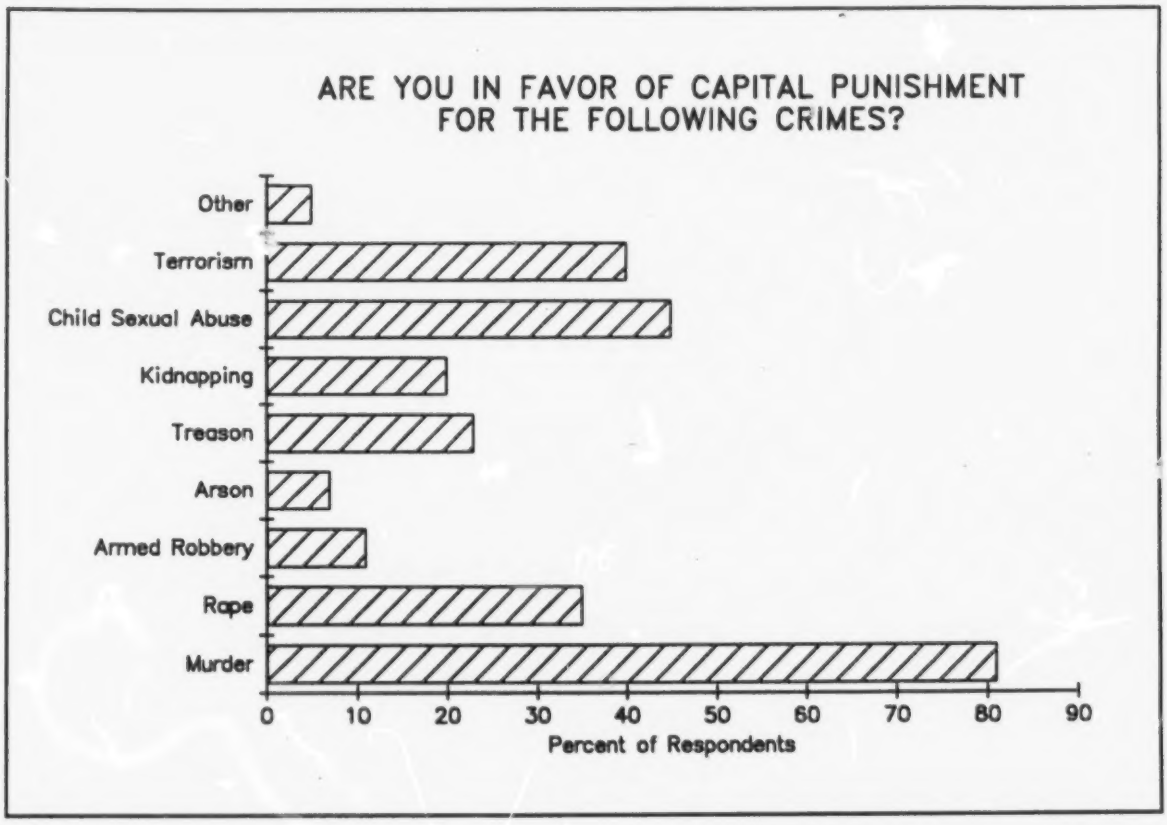
- Thirteen percent (13%) of the respondents had been victims of child abuse.
- The types of abuse experienced were: emotional (58%); sexual (49%); physical (45%); and neglect (23%). (Respondents could check more than one type of abuse.)
- The person(s) who abused them as children were: family member (75%); a parent (43%); a friend (32%); and a counselor (28%). (Respondents could check more than one answer.)
- Sixty-five percent of the respondents were unaware that child care providers must be screened for prior child abuse convictions.
- Ninety-five percent thought child care providers should be screened. Ninety-four percent thought that the screening process should include convictions outside Tennessee.
- Respondents believed that the screening process should involve any felony conviction in 78% of the surveys, and only 15% thought that a convicted felon should be allowed to provide child care.

Punishment

The first section of the survey dealt with punishment of criminals in Tennessee and covered topics including the death penalty, supervision of released offenders, and rights of offenders.

Question:

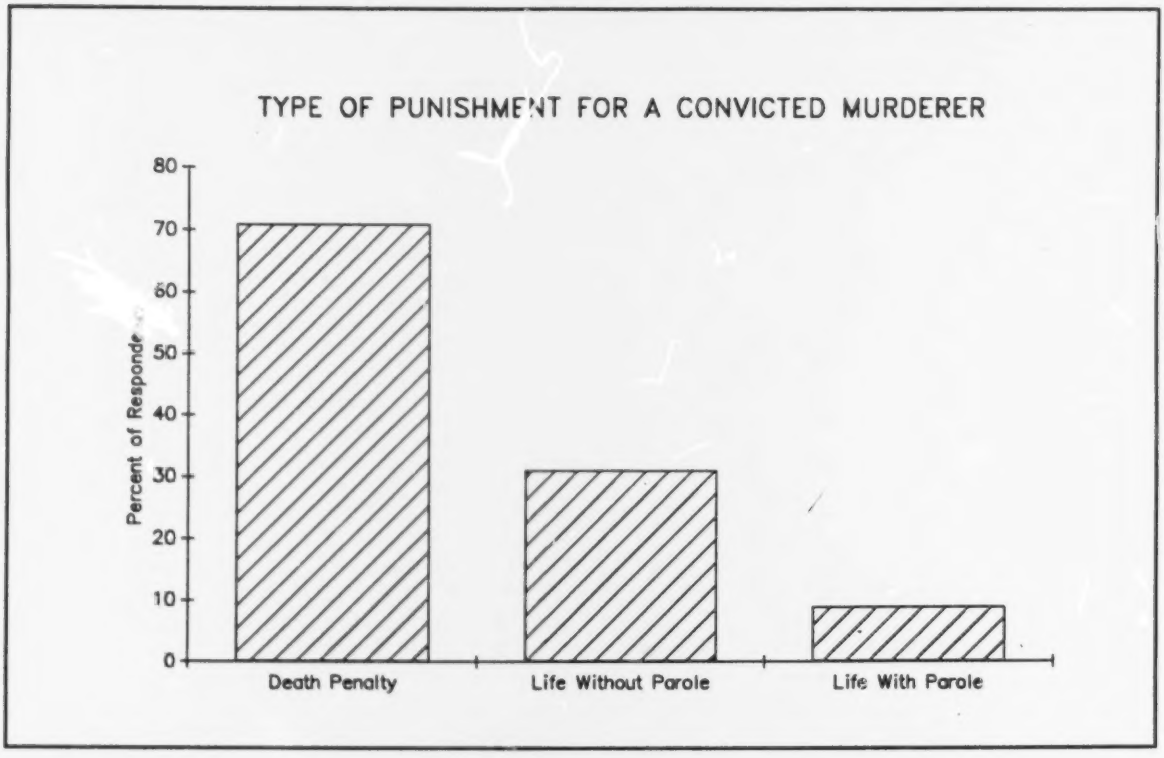
Are you in favor of the death penalty being available for any of the following crimes? If so, please check which ones.



More persons were in favor of the death penalty for convicted murderers and child sex abusers than for any other crimes. Fourteen percent of the respondents were against the death penalty for any crime.

Question:

What type of punishment should be given for someone convicted of murder?



Respondents favored the death penalty for convicted murderers in 71% of the responses; life in prison without parole was selected by 31% of the respondents; and 9% chose life with parole. Some respondents checked more than one answer. A total of 33% of the females favored the death penalty compared to 24% of males responding. More males (76%) answered in favor of life with no parole compared to females (63%).

Question:

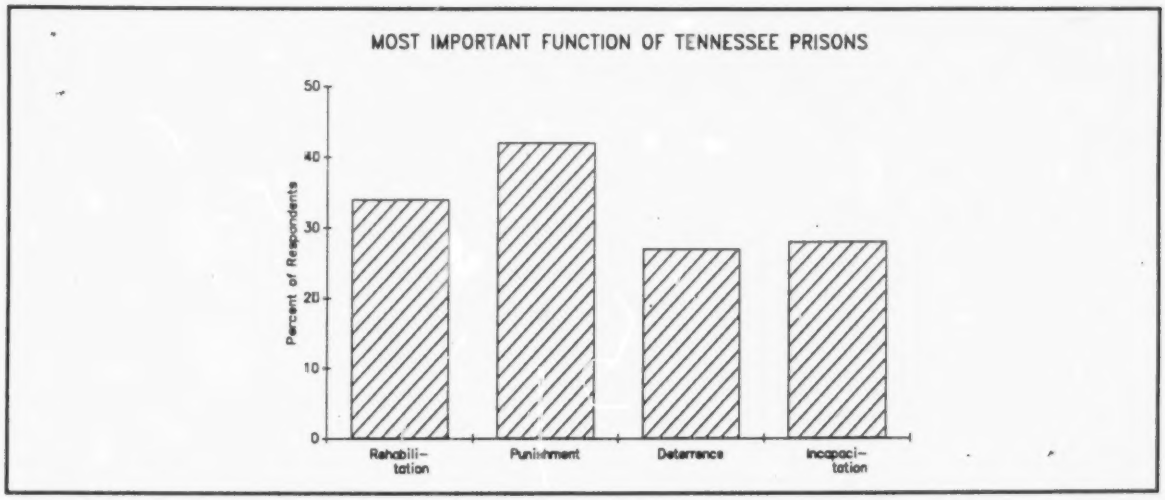
Do you think that everyone released from prison should be supervised?

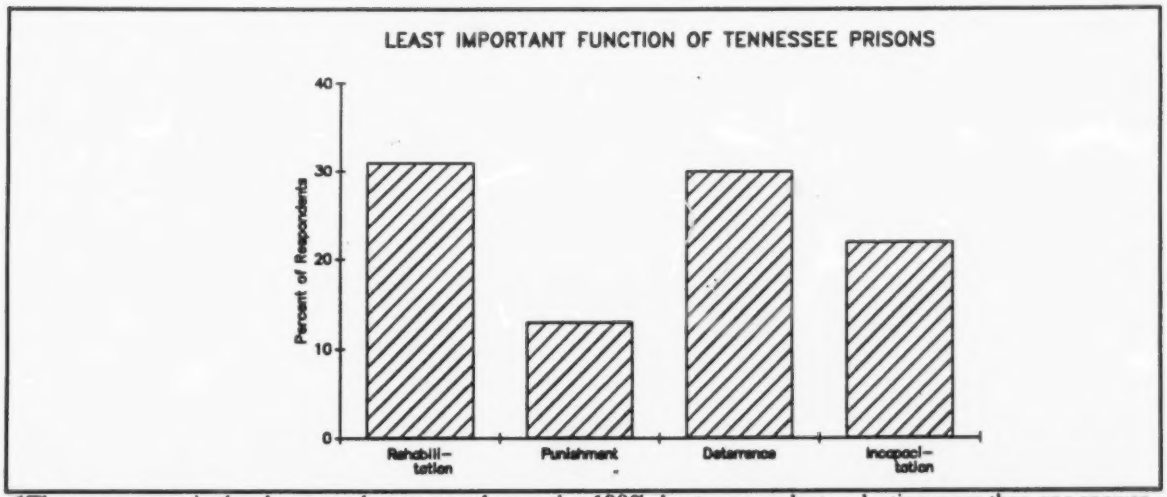
Most persons (72%) were in favor of offenders being supervised when released from prison. Twenty-six percent did not believe supervision was needed. Sixty-nine percent of the males thought supervision was needed compared to 74% of the females.

Question:

A. Which one of the following should be the most important function for Tennessee prisons?

B. Which one of the following should be the least important function for Tennessee prisons?





*The percentages in the above graphs may equal more that 100% due to respondents selecting more than one answer.

Punishment and rehabilitation were most commonly chosen as important functions while rehabilitation and deterrence were selected more frequently as the least important functions of the Tennessee prisons. Rehabilitation was checked as an important function by a slightly larger percentage of females (35%) than males (32%). Punishment was considered an important function to 44% of the males and 41% of the females. More males (32%) than females (29%) thought that rehabilitation should not be an important function of the prison system. Females (33%) considered deterrence to be a low priority function more frequently compared to males (27%).

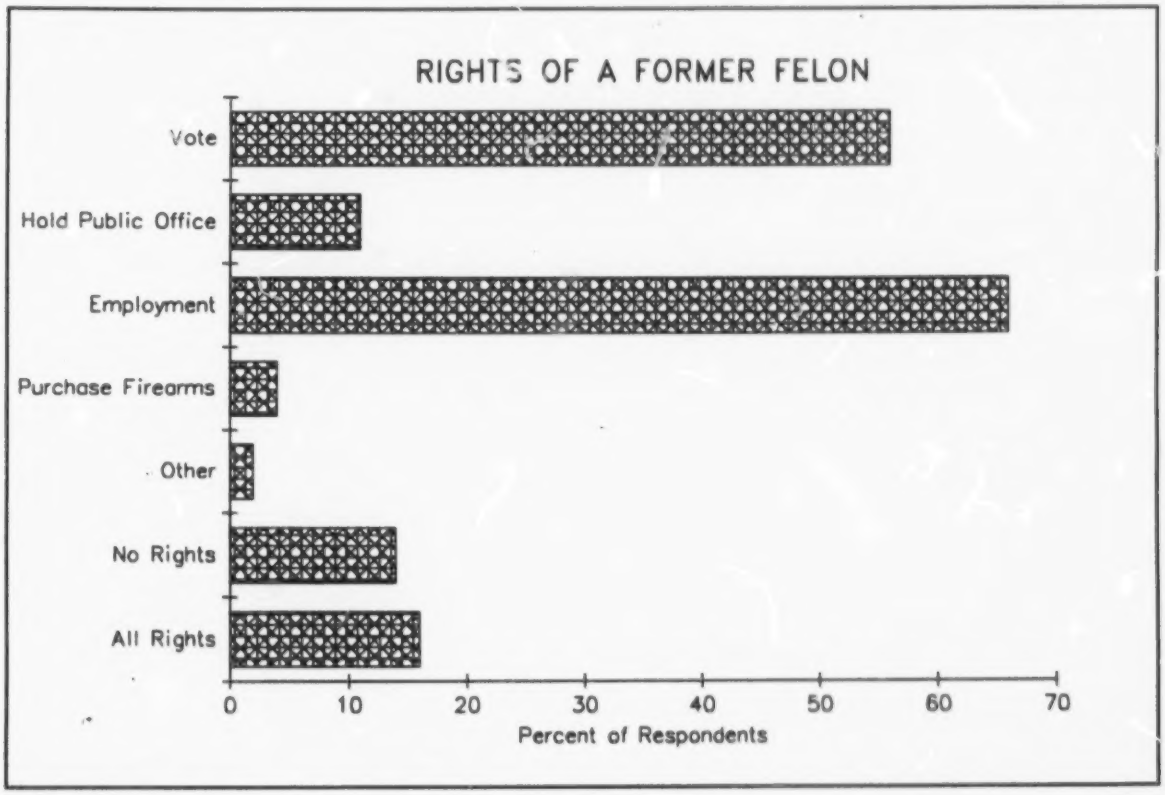
Question:

Regarding an inmate's release from prison, should they serve their full sentence or be released early depending on their behavior in prison?

Most persons (74%) thought that inmates should serve their full sentence. Females (80%) thought that the full sentence should be served more often than males (69%).

Question:

Which of the following rights and privileges do you believe should be permitted when a convicted felon has completed their sentence?



Employment rights (66%) were most frequently selected as the ones to be restored. The right to purchase firearms was chosen by fewer respondents (4%) than any other right. Females and males did not differ signficantly in their answers.

Question:

Who do you think should decide the defendant's punishment, the judge or the jury?

The respondents thought a jury should decide the sentence in 57% of the surveys compared to 37% for the judge. Females and males did not differ significantly on their answers.

Fear of Crime

Some of the questions in this section concerned how safe people felt in their neighborhoods, if they felt they would be a victim of crime in the future, and about security devices placed in their homes.

Question:

Is there any area within one mile of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?

Fifty-six percent of the respondents answered yes to this question. The proportion of females (72%) who were afraid to walk within one mile of their home was much larger than males (39%).

Question :

Would you be afraid to walk alone in your neighborhood at night?

Respondents answered yes to this question 39% of the time. Once again, the percentage of females (57%) that were afraid to walk in their neighborhood at night was higher than males (20%).

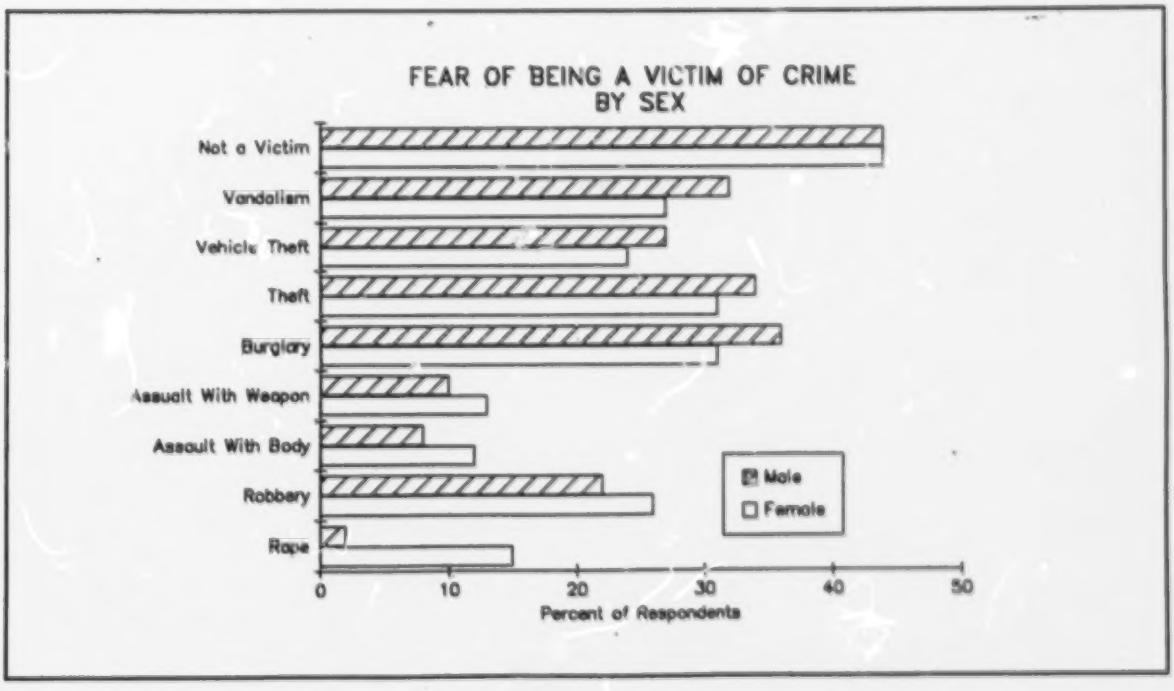
Question:

Are you afraid to be in your home alone at night?

Most respondents were not afraid to be in their home at night (84%). A higher percentage of males (91%) than females (76%) were not afraid to be in their home alone at night.

Question:

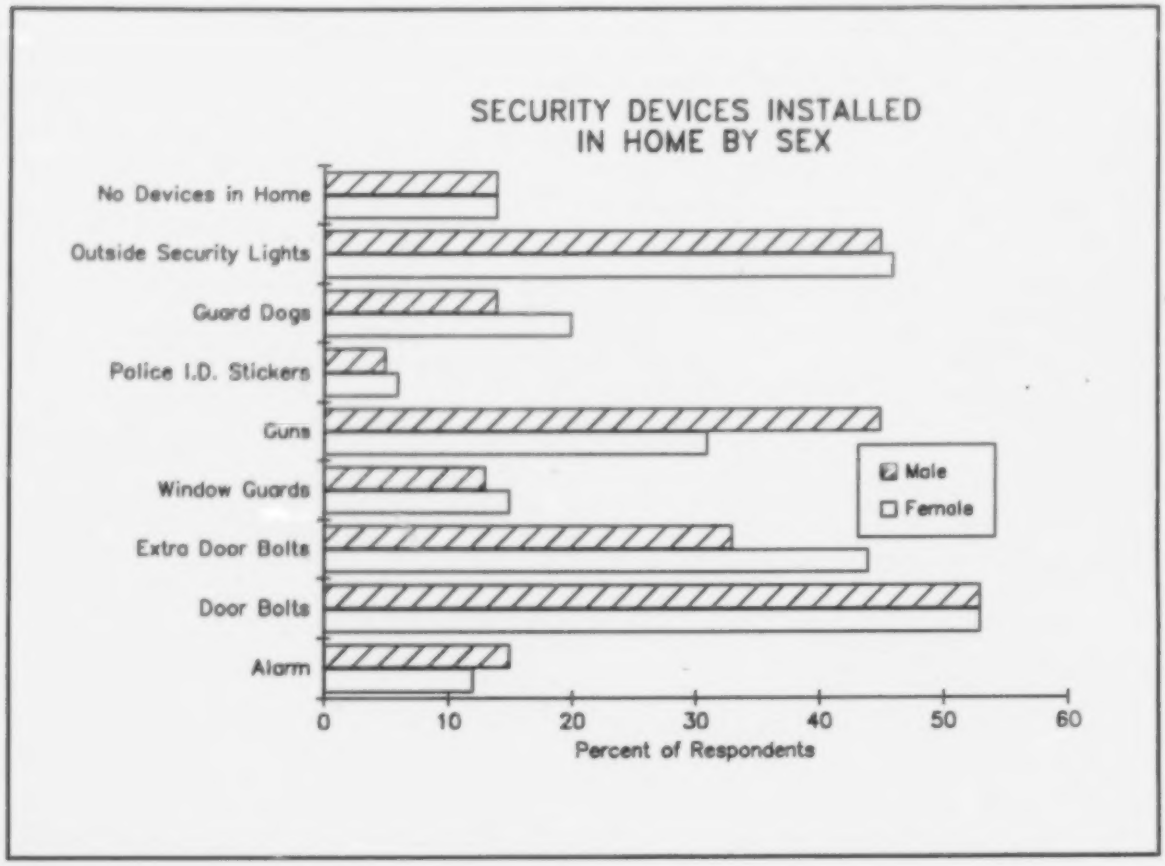
Do you feel that you may be the victim of any of the following crimes within the next year? If so, please check which ones.



A total of 43% of the respondents thought that they would be a victim of some type of crime in the next year. Little difference was found between male and female responses. Most persons thought they would be the victim of a property crime such as burglary, theft, auto theft, or vandalism instead of a violent crime such as rape, robbery, or assault.

Question :

Which, if any, of the following devices have you placed in your home for reasons of security?



Outside security lights, some type of door bolt, and guns were the most frequently installed security devices found in the home. Forty-five percent of the respondents had installed outside security lights. Fifty-three percent had door bolts and 39% had extra door bolts. A total of 38% of the respondents had guns in their homes. A higher percentage of males (44%) than females (31%) had guns.

How Well Is The Criminal Justice System Working?

The respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of various components of the criminal justice system in this section. Some of the questions concerned the prison and court systems, as well as local law enforcement.

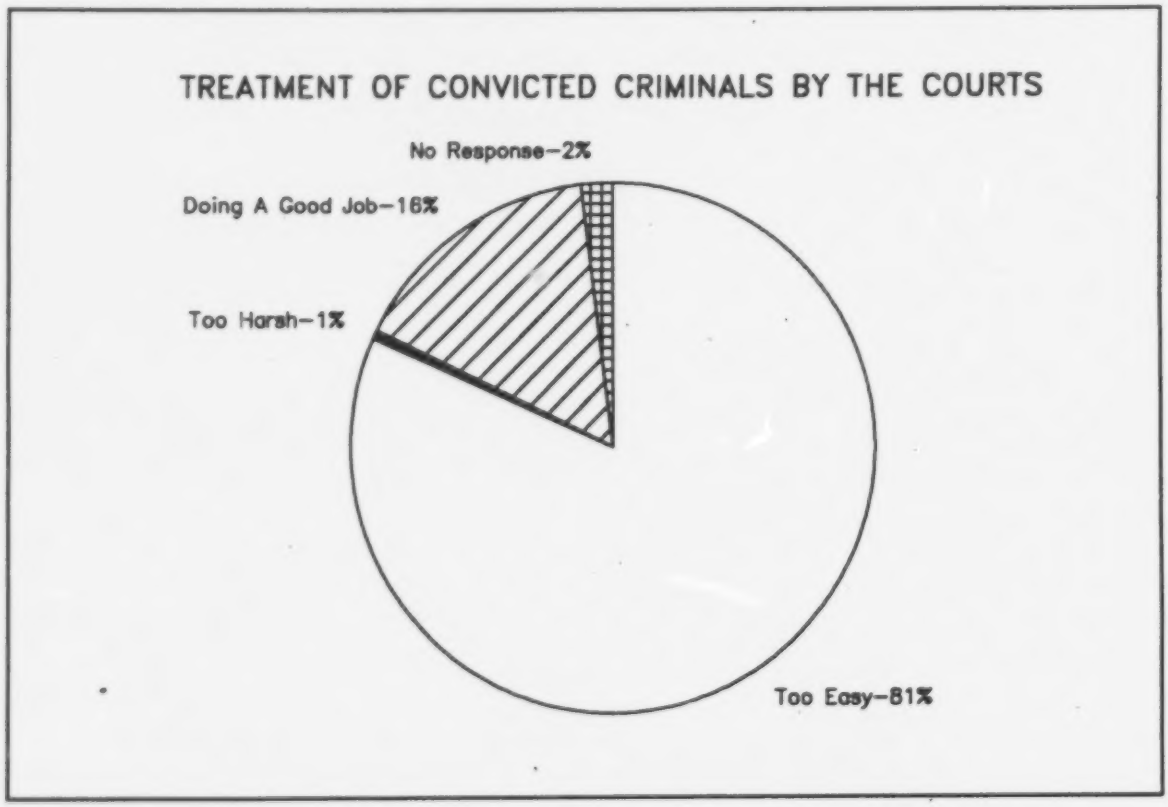
Question:

A person may be released from jail until their trial by posting a bond of a certain amount to the court. If a person is out of jail on bond for a serious (felony) offense and that person is arrested for another serious offense, should they be allowed out of jail on bond for the second offense?

Ninety-eight percent believe that a person should not be released on bond if arrested for another felony offense. The percentage of males and females did not differ.

Question:

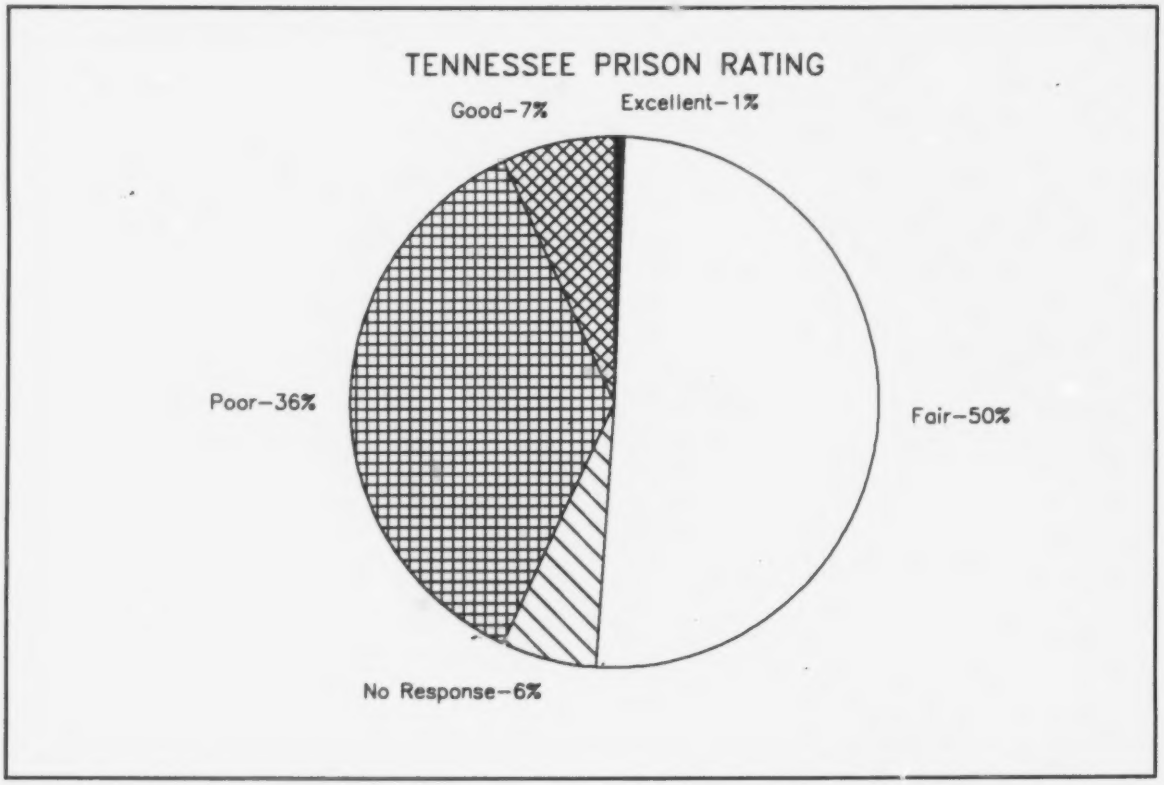
In general, when dealing with convicted criminals, do you feel the courts are too easy, doing a good job, or too harsh?



Most respondents thought that the courts were too easy on convicted criminals (82%). The percentages of females and males that thought the courts were too easy did not differ significantly.

Question:

In preparing people to return to society, do you think that the Tennessee prison system is doing an excellent job, doing a good job, doing a fair job, or doing a poor job?



Fifty percent of the respondents thought that the prison system was doing a fair job in preparing persons to return to the community, while 36% thought the prison system was doing a poor job. Only 7% thought that the prison system was doing a good job, and less than one percent thought the system was doing an excellent job. Females and males rated the system similarly.

Question:

How would you rate the job being done by the police department in your community?

Eighty-one percent rated the job being done by their police department as good or fair with 45% rating it good and 36% rating it fair. Ten percent thought their police department was doing a poor job and 7% thought it excellent. The breakout by sex did not indicate any major differences in opinions.

Question:

How would you rate the job being done by your sheriff's department?

Most of the respondents thought the sheriff's department was doing a good job (44%) or a fair job (35%). Seven percent gave them and excellent rating while 12% gave them a poor rating. The main difference between the way the sexes rated the sheriff's department was the excellent rating where 8% of the males thought their job was excellent compared to 4% of the females.

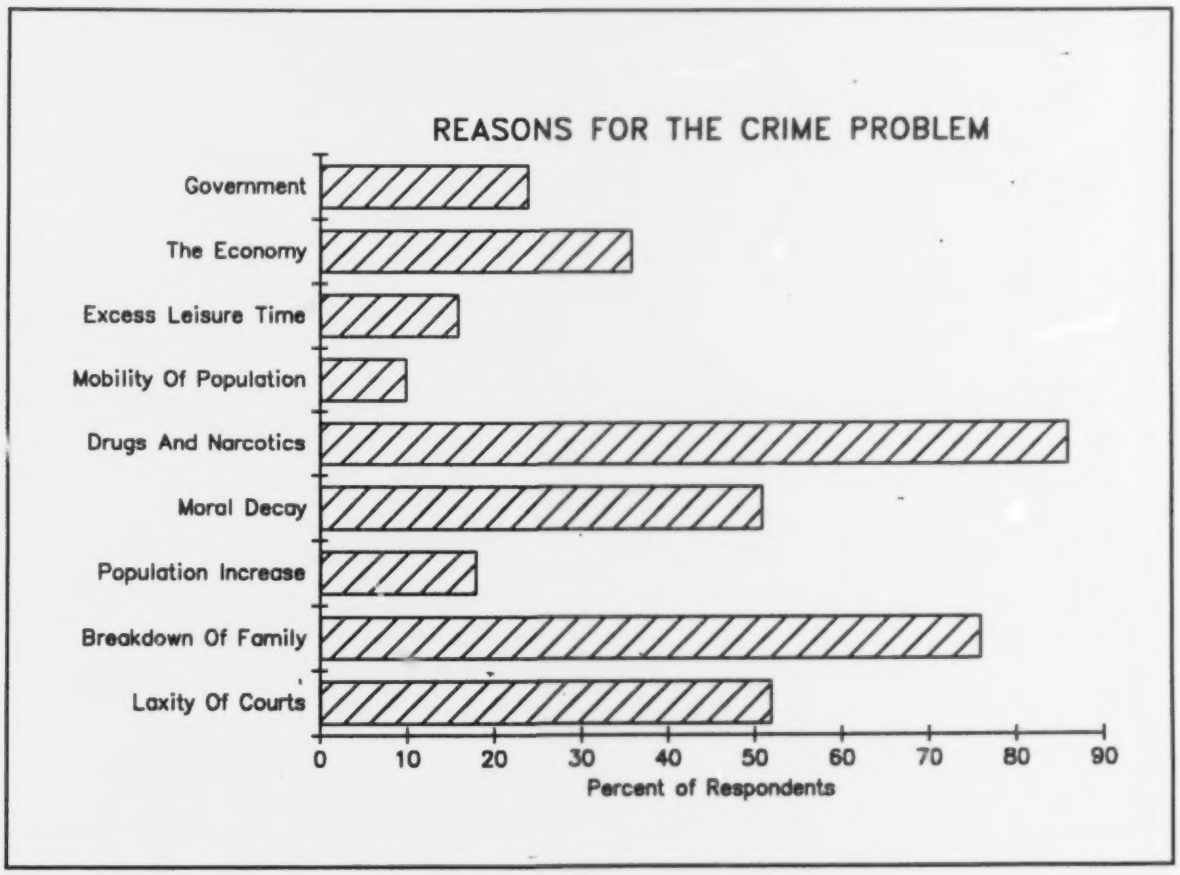
Question:

Over the past three years, do you feel the crime problem in your community has improved, stayed the same, or become worse?

Only 5% of the respondents thought the crime problem had improved while 49% thought the problem had stayed the same. Forty-five percent thought the problem had become worse. More males (52%) thought the problem had stayed the same as compared to females (46%).

Question:

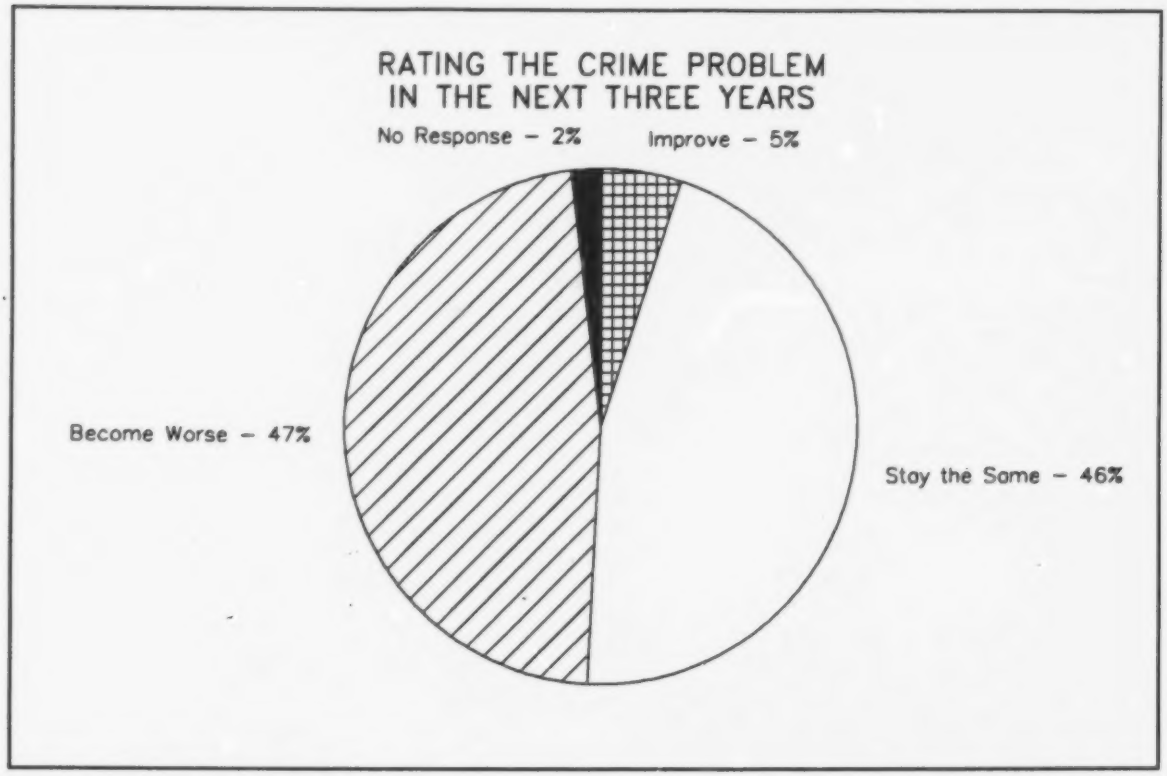
Which of the following do you feel are responsible for the crime problem? Check all that apply.



Most persons (86%) thought that drugs and narcotics had contributed to the crime problem. No significant differences occurred between males and females. The second leading answer chosen was breakdown of the family (76%). Laxity of the courts was chosen by 52% of the respondents, and moral decay was selected by 51% of the respondents.

Question:

During the next three years, do you feel that the crime problem in your community will improve, stay about the same, or become worse?



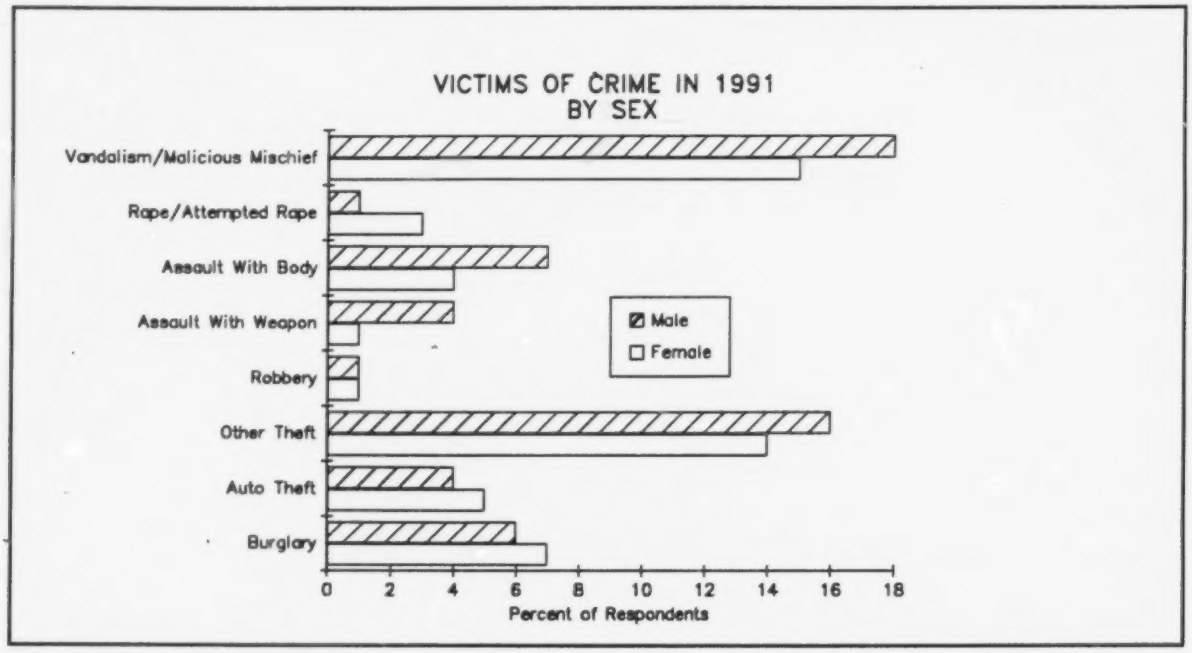
Similar proportions of the respondents thought the crime problem would stay the same (46%) or become worse (47%). Only 5% thought the problem would improve in the next three years. Forty-four percent of the females thought the problem would stay the same and 49% thought the problem would become worse. A slightly higher percentage of males thought the problem would remain the same (48%) and a lower percentage thought the problem would become worse (45%).

Crime Events In 1991 Or In Lifetime

This section of the survey asked the respondents about their history as a victim of crime in 1991 and during their lifetime.

Question:

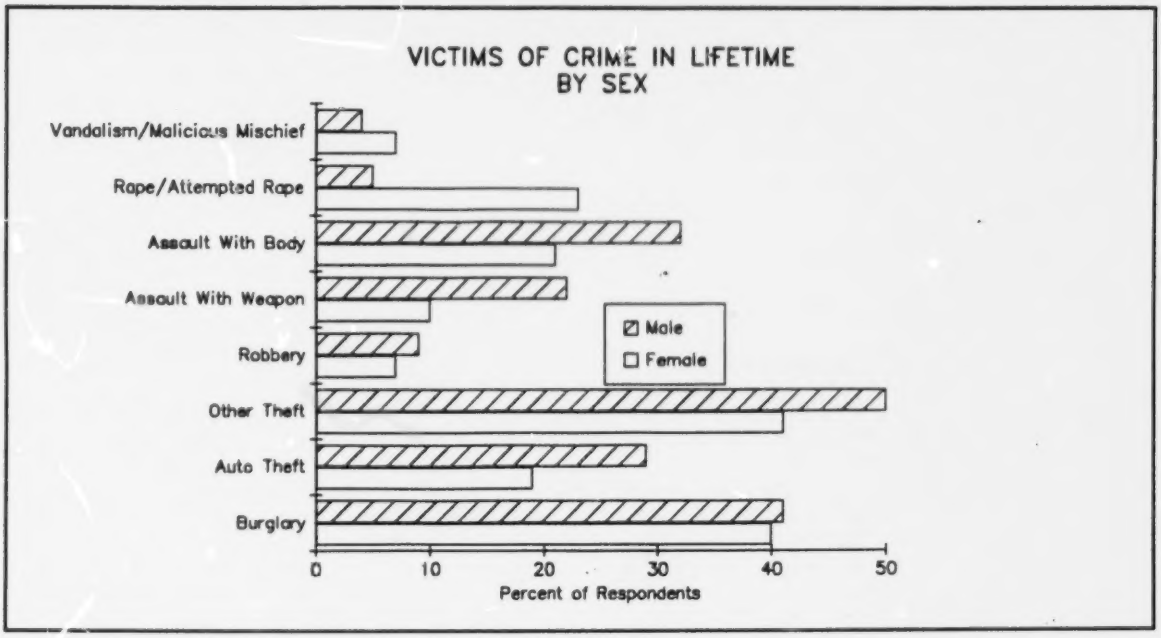
We are interested in knowing if you were the victim of any of the following crimes during the previous year or in your lifetime.



Thirty-one percent of females and 32% of males were a victim of crime in 1991. Percentages of crime victims were distributed fairly evenly over the age groups. The percentage of crime victims in all age groups ranged from 30 to 40 percent except those respondents who were under 21 (25%) and those who were 60 and over (20%). None of the areas where respondents lived in 1991 appeared to have low percentages of crime victims. The central city area had the highest percentage (44%) of crime victims. The percentage of respondents living in other areas (rural, town, city) who were victims of crime in 1991 was 30% or higher in each area. Almost 8% of the respondents were a victim of a violent crime during 1991 such as assault, rape, or robbery.

In their lifetime, 80% of the respondents reported being a victim of crime, and 37% indicated the crime was a violent type. The respondents under 21 had the lowest percentage (50%) as a crime victim. All areas had a high percentage of crime victims responding to the survey. Respondents who lived in a town had the highest percentage (84%), but all of the areas' percentages of crime victims was between 70 and 80%.

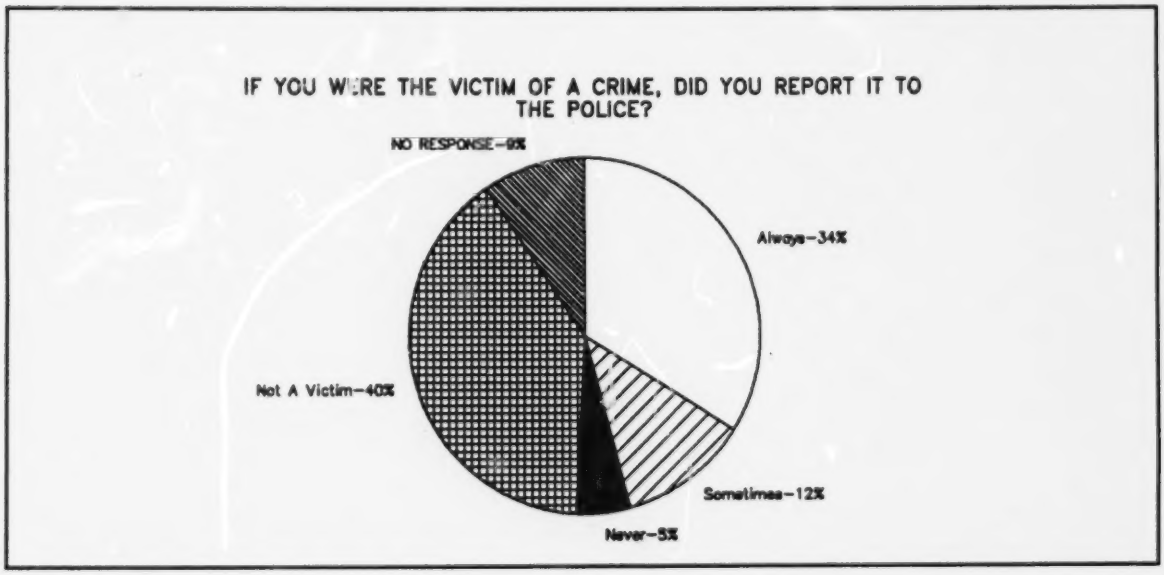
Of those respondents who were ever raped or victims of attempted rape, 83% were female and 17% were male. Most (55%)were raped by an acquaintance. Twenty-four percent were raped by a stranger and 6% were raped by a spouse.



Question :

If you were the victim of a crime, did you report it to the police or sheriff?

Thirty-four pecent of the respondents always reported a crime to the police and 5% never reported a crime.



Question :

If you were a victim of a crime, was the offender an adult, a juvenile, or don't know?

Twenty-three percent of the respondents said that an adult was the offender. Twelve percent said that a juvenile was the offender, and 30% did not know the offender.

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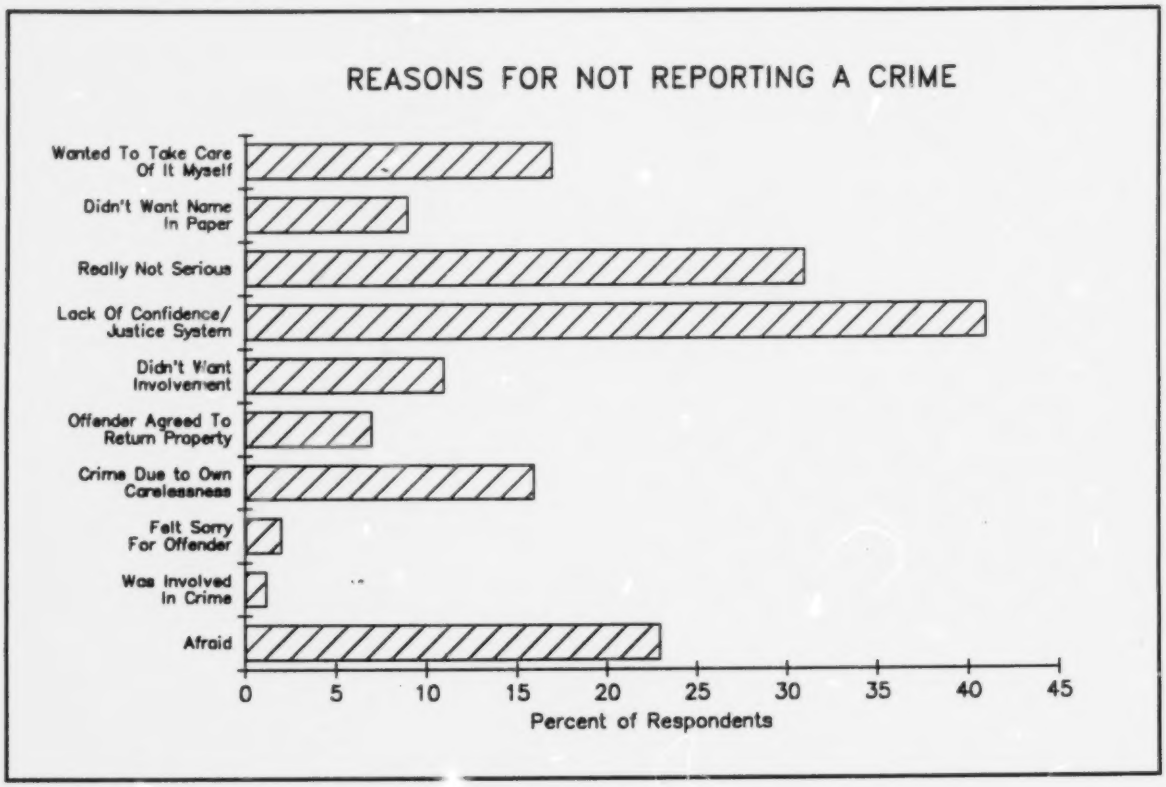
Question :

If you did not report a crime to the police, what was the reason for not reporting the crime?

Lack of confidence in the justice system was the most selected reason for not reporting a crime. Please note that percentages are based on the total number of respondents (243) who checked one or more of the responses to this question.



Question :

During the past year or in your lifetime, was anyone you knew the victim of murder?

Thirty-five percent of the respondents knew a victim of murder.

Question :

If you knew anyone who was a murder victim, how did you know them?

Only one responded that a husband or wife was a murder victim. A son or daughter was a reported victim by 2 respondents and a parent was reported by 4 respondents. Two people said that an in-law was a victim, 8 reported a sibling, 1 reported a grandparent, and 30 reported a cousin. Nineteen respondents said an aunt or and uncle was a murder victim, 3 reported a neice or nephew, 51 reported a neighbor, 41 reported an associate at work, and 121 (12%) said a close friend was a murder victim. Ninety-five (10%) of the respondents knew a murder victim other than those listed on the survey.

Public Attitudes

This section of the survey asked for opinions on a wide variety of topics including the legal status of certain activities, probation for certain offenders, higher taxes to help support criminal justice activities, and the most humane punishment for the death penalty.

Question:

Should the following activities be illegal?

	Should Be Against The Law	Should Not Be Against The Law	Not Sure
Gambling	29%	42%	26%
Abortion	32%	50%	17%
Attempted Suicide	29%	38%	31%
Prostitution	72%	16%	10%
Homosexuality	43%	35%	19%
Use of Marijauna	72%	14%	12%
Public Intoxication	83%	6%	9%

Most respondents (72%) thought that the use of marijuana should be against the law. Public intoxication should also be illegal according to 83% of the respondents. Prostitution should be against the law according to 73% of the respondents. Abortion should be illegal according to 32% of the respondents while 50% thought it should be legal. According to 42% of the respondents, gambling should be legal and 29% thought it should be illegal.

The percentage of males and females that thought marijuana should be illegal was similar.

A higher percentage of females (80%) than males (65%) thought prostitution should be illegal.

Approximately 50% of males and females thought abortion should be legal. A higher percentage of males (48%) than females (38%) thought that gambling should be legal.

Respondents were asked to respond to the following four statements by selecting one of these responses: agree, disagree, or not sure.

Statement:

Most criminals should not really be blamed for the things they have done.

Ninety-three percent disagreed with this statement. Males and females did not differ in the proportion that thought criminals should be blamed for their actions.

Statement:

Most things that people call delinquency do not really hurt anyone.

Most of the respondents (86%) disagreed with this statement as well.

Statement:

The person who leaves their keys in a car is as much to blame for its theft as the one who steals it.

Thirty-eight percent agreed with the statement while 54% disagreed. The way males and females responded to this question did not differ greatly.

Statement:

Most crime and delinquency is the result of someone being influenced by a "bad" crowd.

Forty-six percent agreed with the statement while 38% disagreed. Fourteen percent were undecided. More males (52%) agreed with the statement than females (40%).

Question:

Are you in favor of Tennessee having a law that prohibits a man from having sex with his wife against her will?

The percentage of those strongly favoring a spousal rape law was 43% and favoring the law was 26%. A total of 7% opposed the law, and 4% strongly opposed it. The undecided percentage was 17%, and the remainder did not respond. A higher percentage of females (52%) than males (34%) strongly favored a law prohibiting spousal rape.

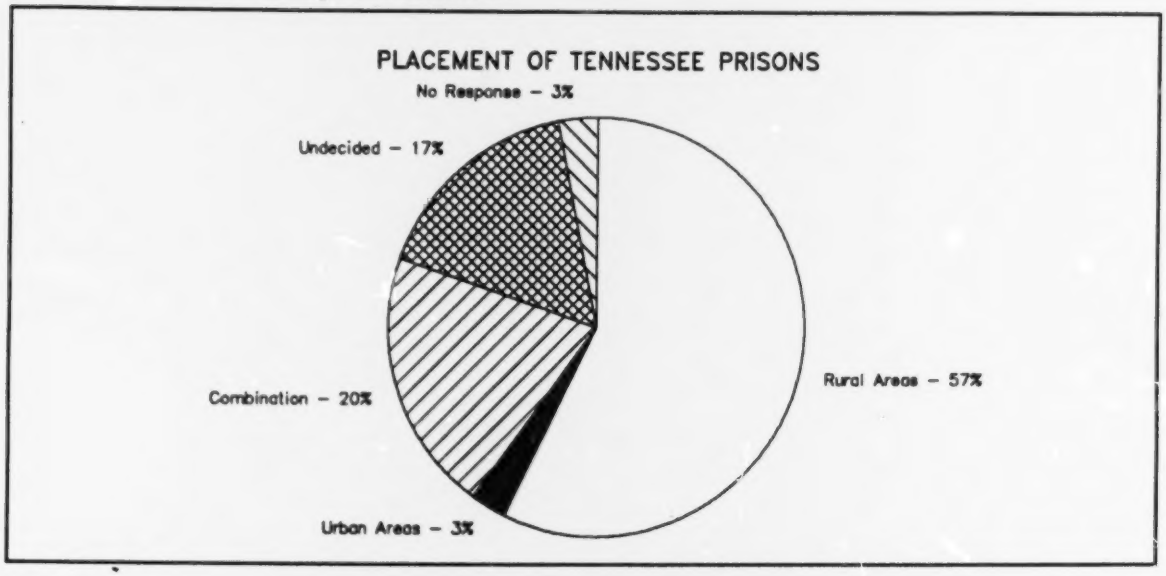
Question:

Some states make arrangements so that inmates in prison can visit with their husband or wife in a private room and they may have sexual relations during the visit. These visits are called conjugal visits and are not permitted in Tennessee. Which of the following best describes your feelings concerning conjugal visits in Tennessee prisons?

Five percent of the respondents were in favor of conjugal visits while 45% were in favor of visits conditional on the offender's good behavior. The percentage opposed to conjugal visits was 47%. The percentages did not differ between males and females.

Question:

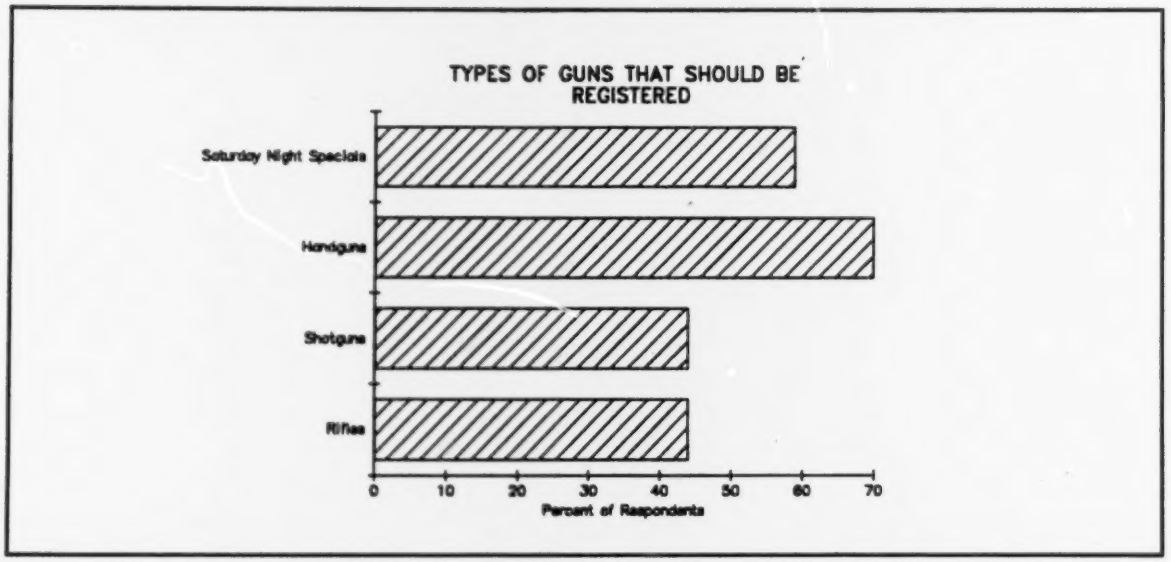
Tennessee prisons have traditionally been placed in rural areas away from population centers and have developed agriculture programs to help feed the inmates. Some people have suggested the development of prisons in urban areas (cities) so that it would be easier for the families of inmates to visit them. Where do you favor the placement of new prison facilities?



More respondents (57%) thought that new prisons should be located in rural areas and 20% chose a combination of rural and urban areas. Only 3% were in favor of locating new prisons completely in urban areas. No major differences in percentages between males and females was noted.

Question:

If you favor gun registration, which types of guns do you think should be registered? (More than one answer may be checked.)



A total of 97% of the respondents were in favor of some type of gun registration. The differences between males and females were small.

Question:

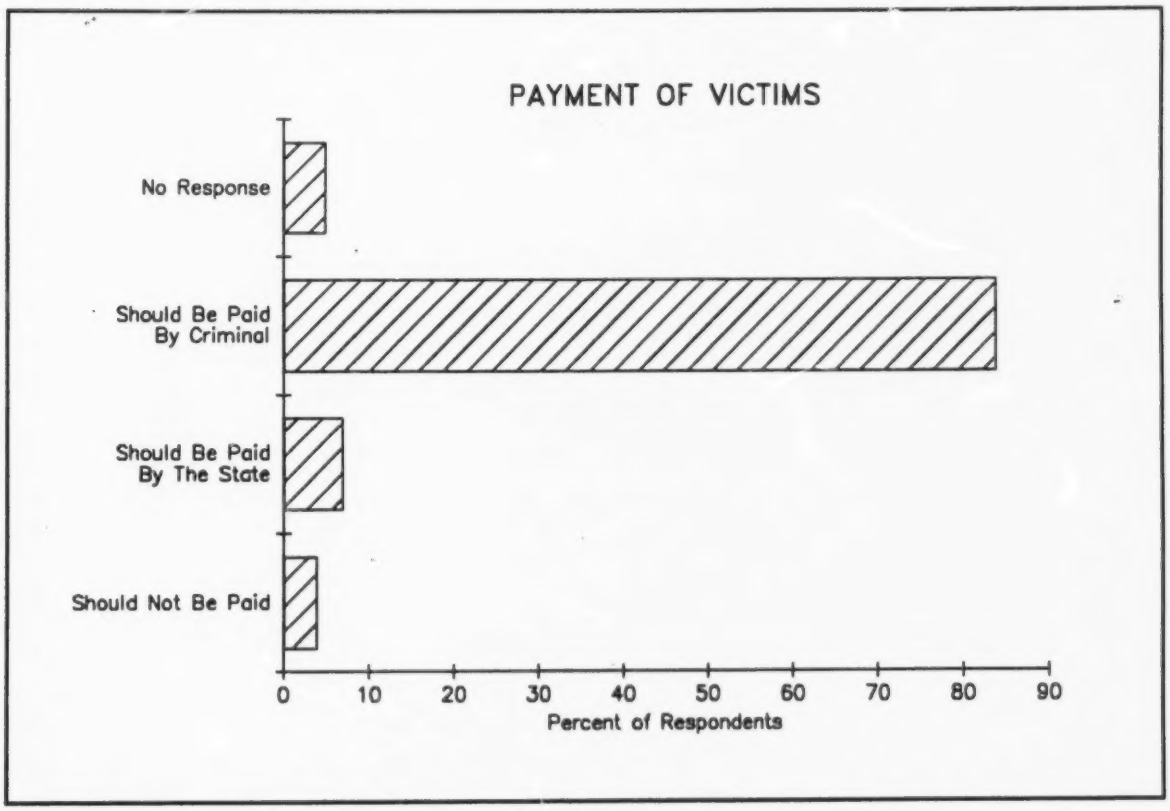
If you have a gun in your home, do you keep it for sporting purposes, protection, or both sporting purposes and protection?

The largest percentage (35%) of persons answering this question stated they did not own a gun. The second most frequently checked answer was for both sporting purposes and protection (26%); 20% selected for protection purposes.

A slightly higher percentage of females (21%) owned a gun for protection compared to males (19%), and more males (33%) owned them for both sporting and protection purposes than females (20%). Forty-four percent of the females did not own a gun compared to 27% of the males.

Question:

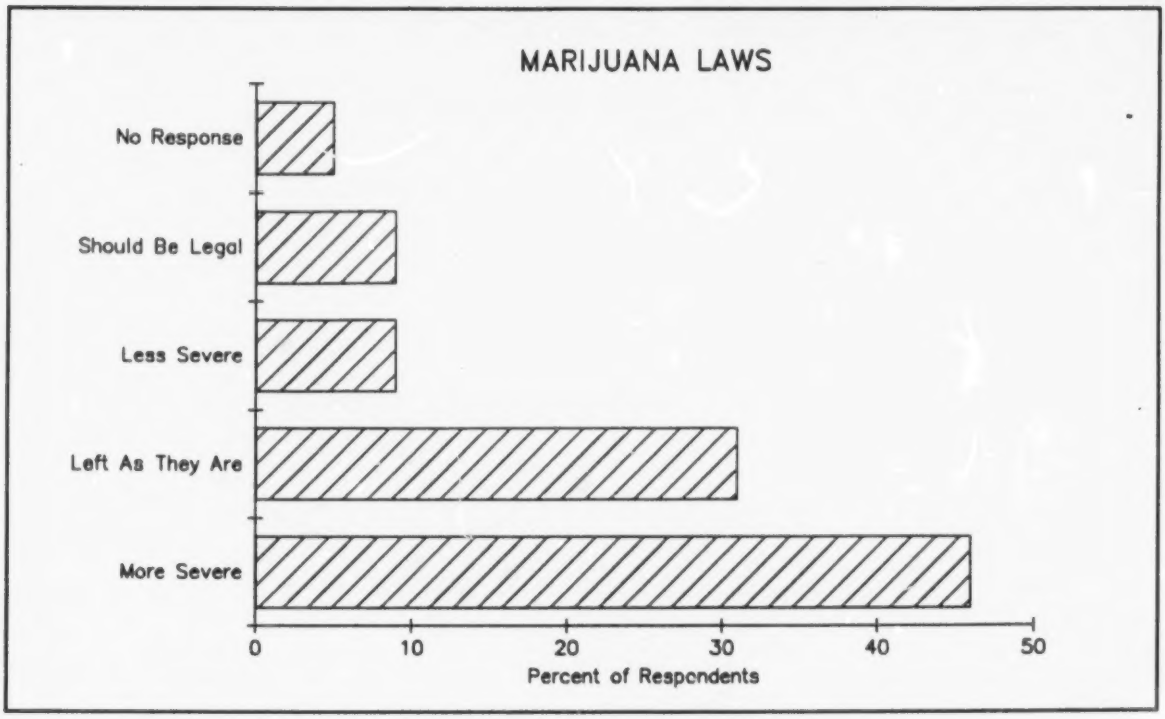
Do you think victims of crimes should be paid back for any losses or injuries that are caused by a criminal.



The greatest majority of the respondents (84%) thought that victims should be paid back by the criminal. Only 4% thought they should not be paid back, and 7% thought the state should pay them.

Question:

In regards to the present laws in Tennessee for the use of marijuana, do you think the laws should be more severe, left as they are, less severe, or no laws.



According to the survey responses, 46% thought that marijuana laws should be more severe, and 31% thought they should be left alone. Nine percent (9%) thought the laws should be less severe, and 9% favored no laws.

Question:

If a person is convicted of rape, should they be permitted to remain out of jail on bond while their conviction is being appealed?

A large percentage (91%) thought a person should not remain out of jail on bond. A higher percentage of females (95%) thought they should remain in jail compared to males (88%).

Question:

If a person has been convicted of a prior sexual crime, should a judge have the power to deny bail to that individual in cases where they are charged with a new sexual conviction?

Ninety-three percent thought the judge should have the power to deny bail to a person charged with a new sexual conviction if they had a prior sexual crime. The percentages of males and females did not differ.

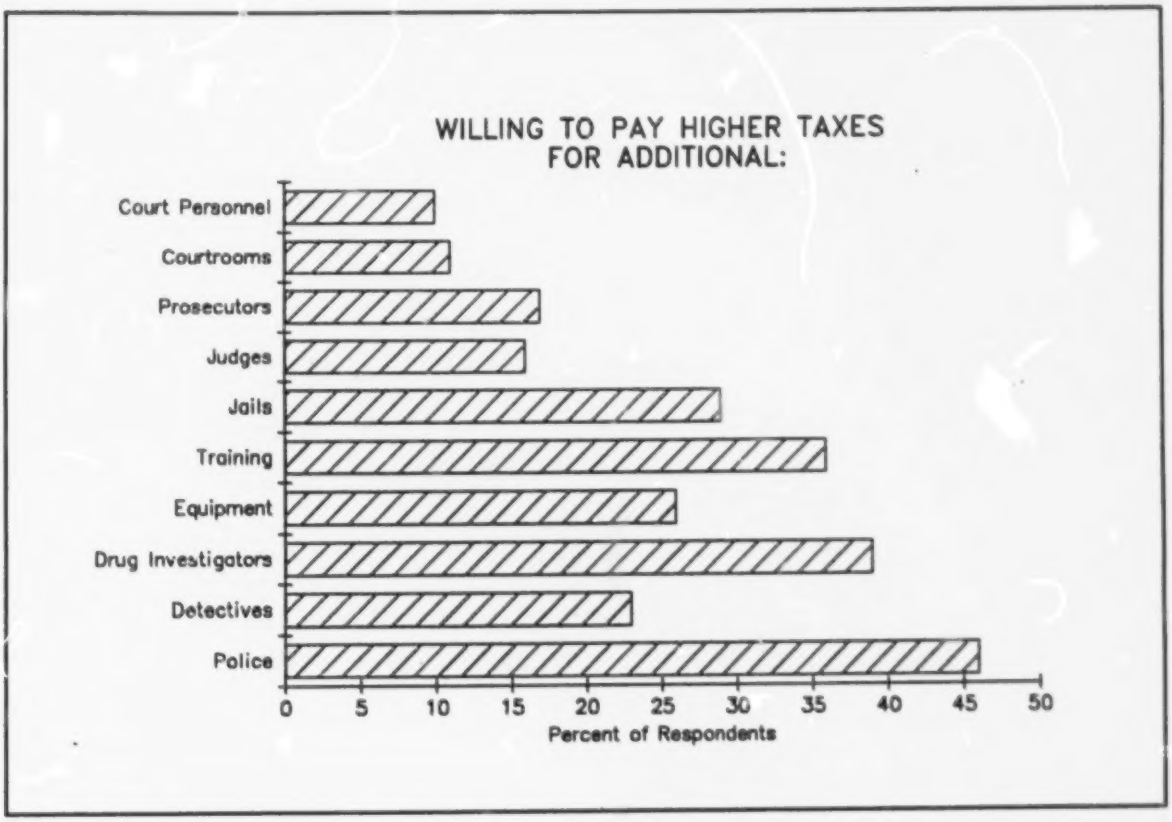
Question:

Do you think that rulings by courts in the area of law enforcement have severely hindered police in their efforts to control crime, have somewhat hindered their efforts, or have not hindered police in their efforts?

Thirty-two percent thought police efforts had been severely hindered, and 47% thought their efforts had been somewhat hindered. Sixteen percent did believe that efforts had been hindered. Twenty-six percent of the females compared to 37% of the males thought efforts had been severely hindered.

Question:

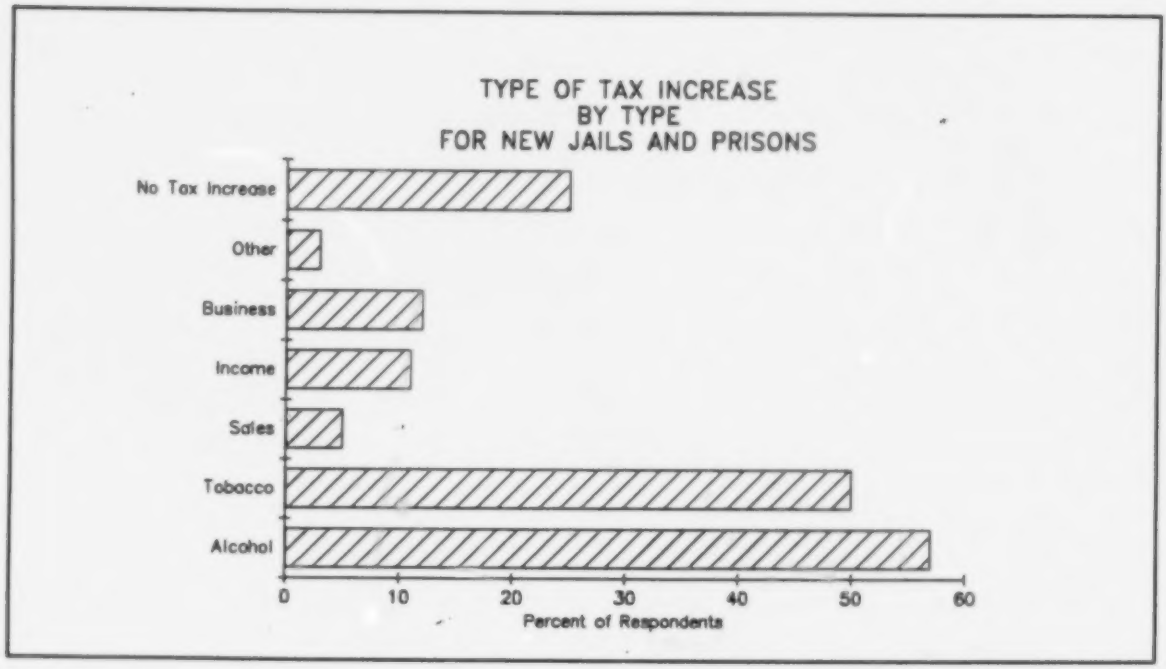
In order to have a better criminal justice system, would you be willing to pay higher taxes to support any of the following?



Respondents were willing to pay higher taxes for additional police officers (46%), more drug enforcement investigators (39%) and better training (36%). The choices that were the least popular with respondents were higher taxes for more courts (11%) and more court personnel (10%). The differences in percentages between males and females on the responses were small on all categories.

Question:

Which of the following tax increases would you support in order to finance new prisons and jails?



A tax on alcohol (57%) and on tobacco (50%) were selected most frequently. The least popular tax increase to finance new prisons and jails was a sales tax (5%), followed by an income tax (11%) and a business tax (12%). Twenty-five percent did not favor any kind of a tax increase. The percentage of females compared to males was slightly lower in all cases except for a tax on tobacco.

Question:

Have you marked your possessions (TV, stereo, etc.) with your Tennessee driver's license number so they can be identified by the police if they are stolen?

Most of the respondents (86%) answered no to this question. Only 12% of the persons completing the survey had marked their possessions. A smaller percentage of females (11%) had marked their possessions than males (13%).

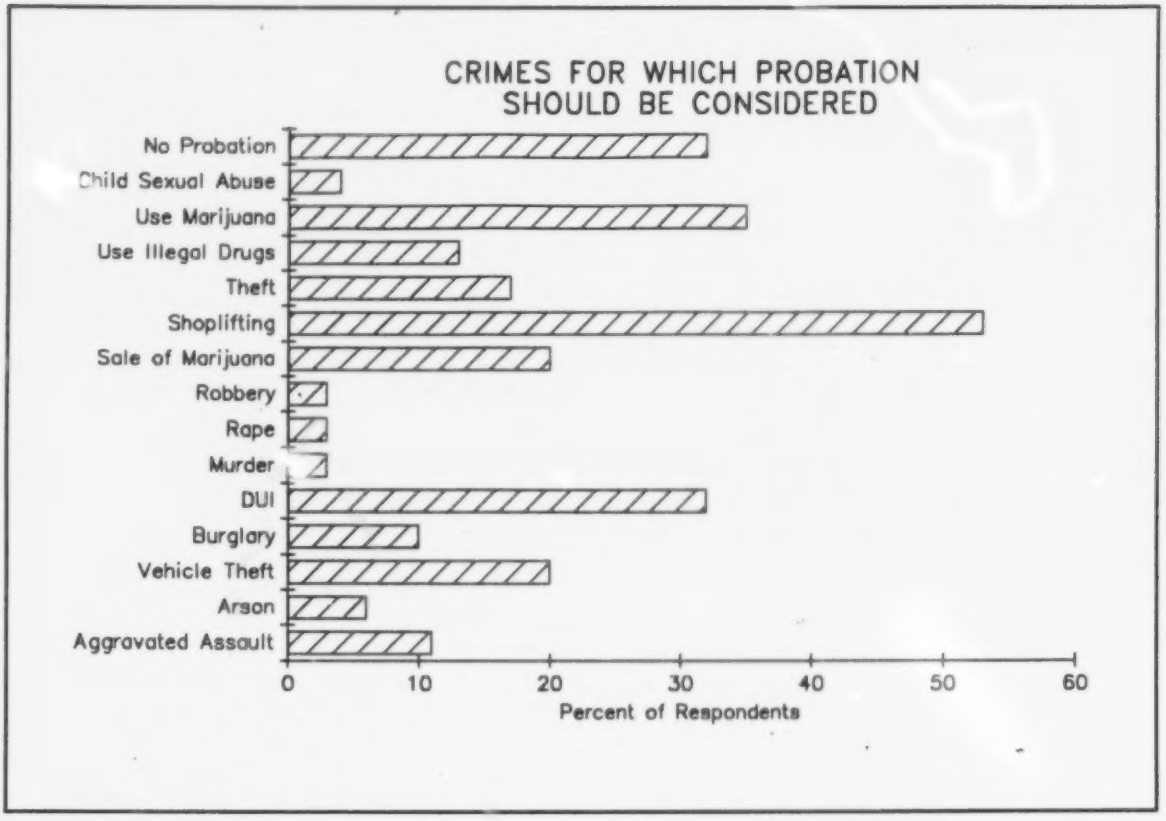
Question:

Do you have a neighborhood crime watch program in your town?

Over 50% of the respondents did have a neighborhood crime watch program in their town. According to the responses, 28% did not have a program, and 17% did not know.

Question:

People are sometimes allowed to serve their prison or jail sentences by staying in their own communities instead of actually going to prison or jail. If the person breaks the rules of this "probation" they may then have to serve the sentence in prison or jail.
Do you think that persons convicted of the following crimes should be considered for probation? If so, check which ones.



The crime most frequently selected to be considered for probation was shoplifting (53%); with use of marijuana was second at 35%. No probation for any of the crimes was selected by 32% of the persons responding. Violent crimes such as murder (3%), rape (3%), child abuse or child sexual abuse (4%) were chosen much less frequently. DUI was a frequent choice at 32%. The greatest range of difference between the sexes was seven percentage points with the exception of marijuana where females chose it 30% of the time compared to 40% of the males.

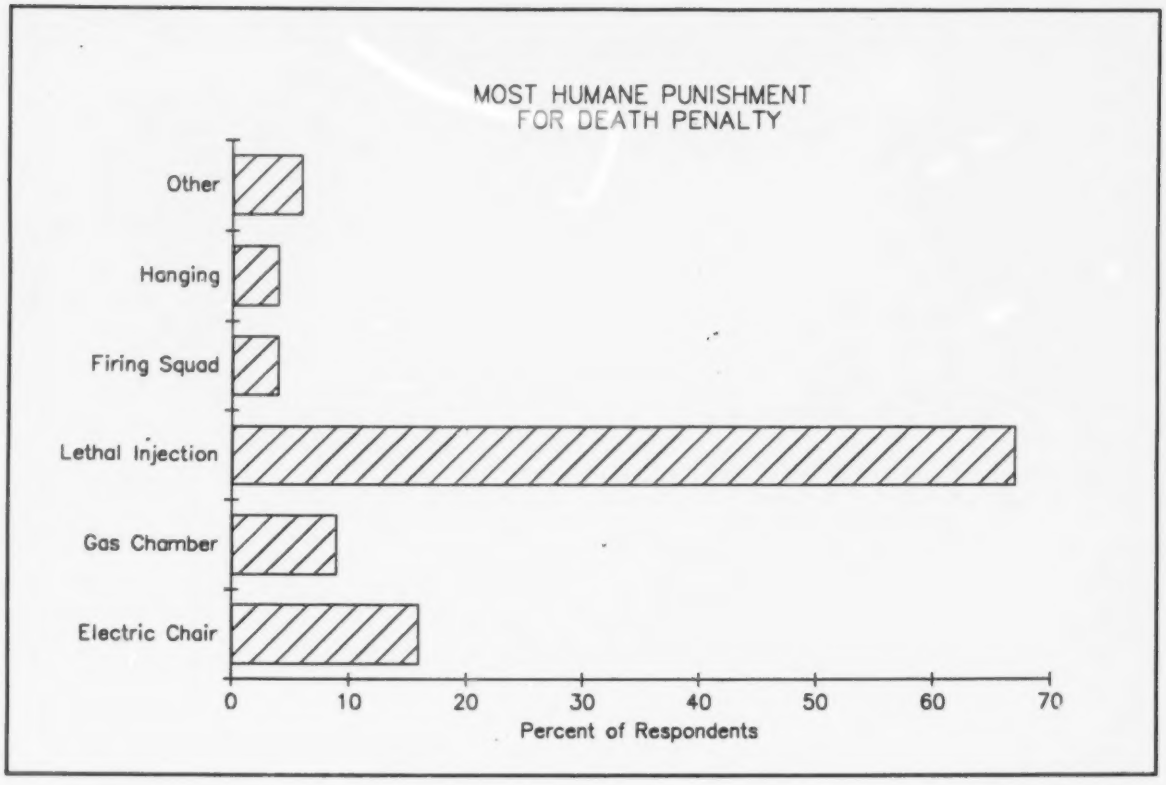
Question:

For non-violent crimes, do you support limiting the offender to the boundaries of their home and grounds rather than prison, with a method of monitoring the offender?

Fifty percent of the respondents answered yes to this question. The percentages of the persons answering no (24%) and answering don't know (23%) were very close. A smaller proportion of females (46%) chose yes compared to males (55%).

Question:

What form of punishment do you consider most humane in a death penalty?



The most humane form of punishment for the death penalty according to 67% of the respondents was lethal injection. The firing squad and hanging were the least humane with 4% choosing each one.

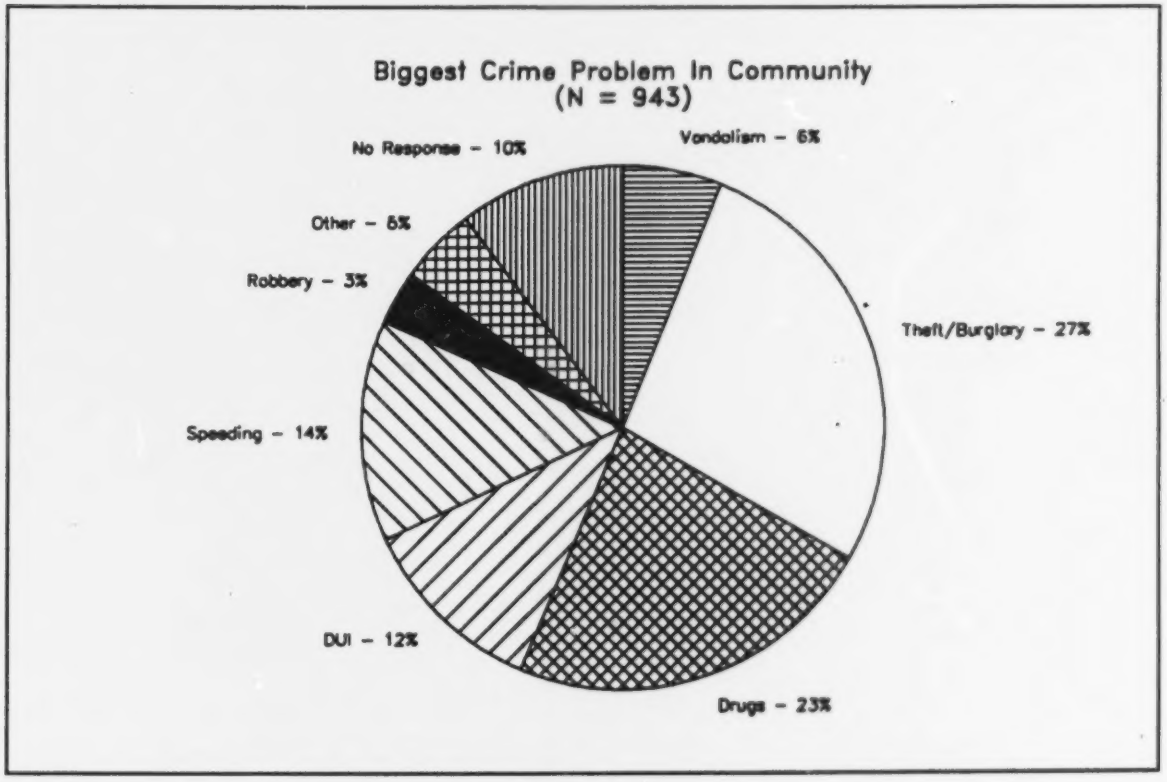
Question:

Do you think crime and violence shown on television have caused a large increase in crime, caused a moderate increase in crime, caused very little increase in crime, or had no effect on the crime rate.

Only 7% of the respondents thought televsion had no effect on the crime rate. Thirty-nine percent of the respondents thought television violence had a large effect on crime, and 37% thought it had a moderate effect on crime. Fifteen percent (15%) thought it had a little effect on the crime rate. A slightly higher percentage of females thought television had more impact on the crime rate than males.

Question:

What is the biggest single crime problem in your community?



Theft/burglary (27%) and drugs (23%) were the biggest crime problems in the community according to the respondents. Speeding (14%) and DUI (12%) were checked most frequently after theft/burglary and drugs. No major differences in responses between the sexes was noted.

Question:

Have you ever had a family member injured or killed by a drunk driver?

Seventeen percent of the respondents had a family member injured or killed by a drunk driver. The percentage breakouts by groups did not indicate any major differences.

Question:

Have you ever driven a vehicle when you have had too much to drink?

Almost one-third of the respondents (32%) answered yes to this question. The percentage of males (42%) who answered yes was much higher than females (23%).

Question:

Have you ever been a passenger in a vehicle when the driver had too much to drink?

Half of the respondents had been a passenger in a vehicle with a driver who had too much to drink, while 42% had not been a passenger. Seven percent were not sure. More males (54%) than females (47%) had been a passenger when the driver had too much to drink.

Question:

Have you ever prevented a person from driving who has had too much to drink?

Almost two-thirds (66%) of the respondents had prevented someone from driving who had too much to drink. The percentage of males (68%) was slightly higher than females (64%).

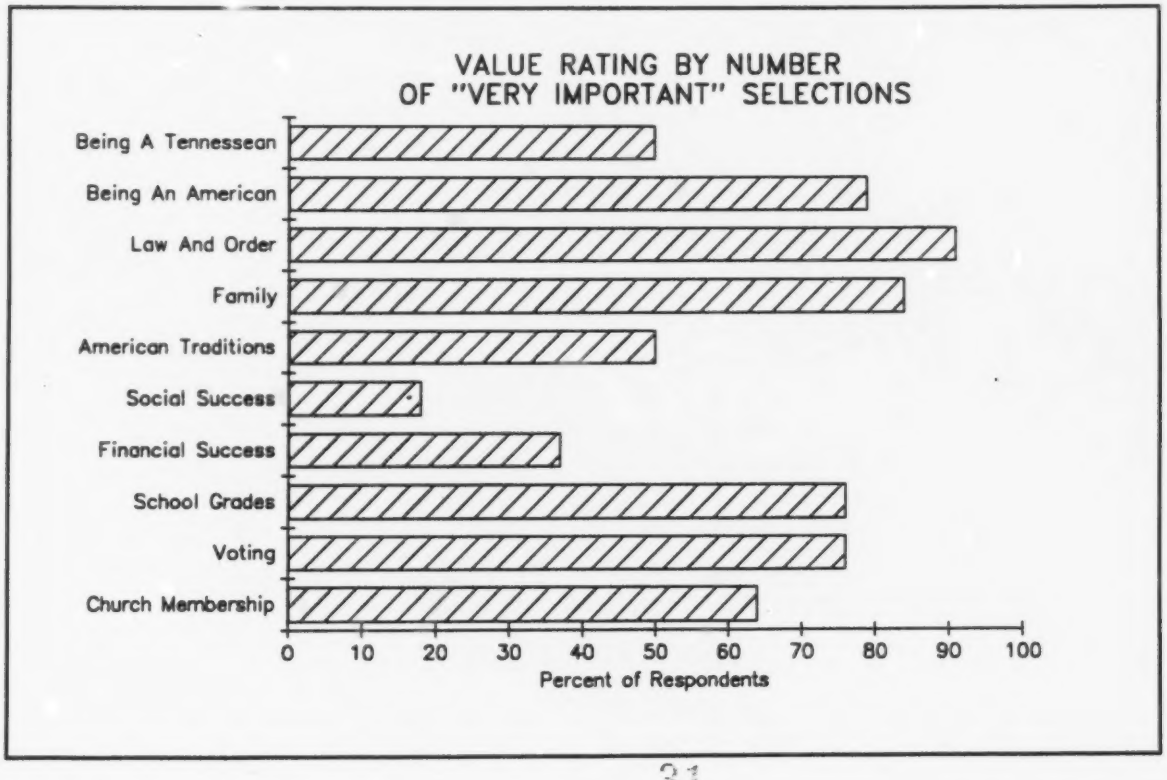
Question:

Do you think that senior citizens are more likely to be victims of crime than persons in any other age group?

A large percentage (65%) of the respondents thought that senior citizens were more at risk as victims of crime. The percentage of males (70%) was higher than females (60%).

Question:

How important do you consider each of the following items?

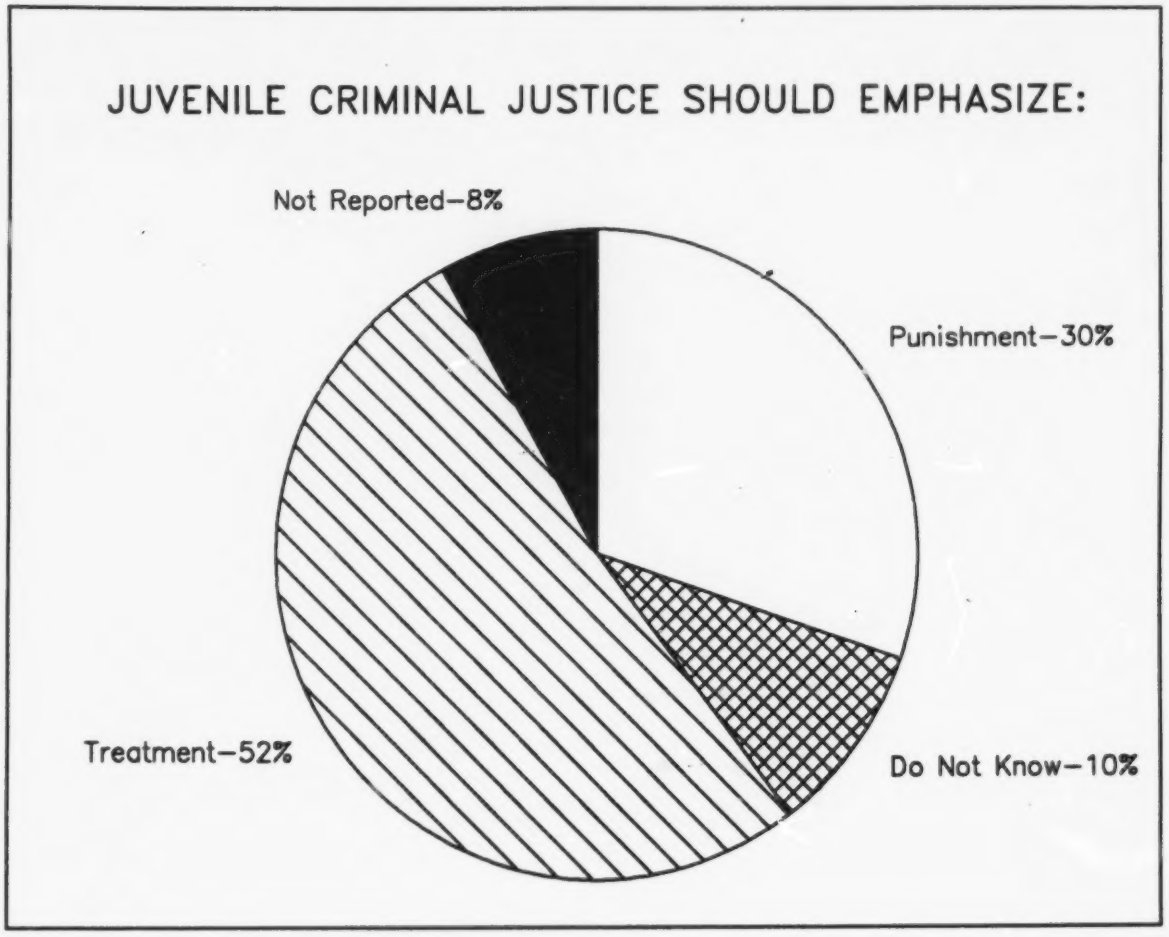


Juvenile Issues

This portion of the survey asked respondents' opinions concerning juvenile justice issues. Topics included punishment of juvenile offenders, the death penalty, and causes of juvenile crime.

Question:

Should the emphasis in juvenile criminal justice be punishment, treatment etc.



Question:

In regards to juvenile offenders, do you think the system is too easy, too hard, or okay?

Sixty-six percent responded that the system is too easy, 1% said that it was too hard, 26% said the system was about right, and 7% did not answer this question.

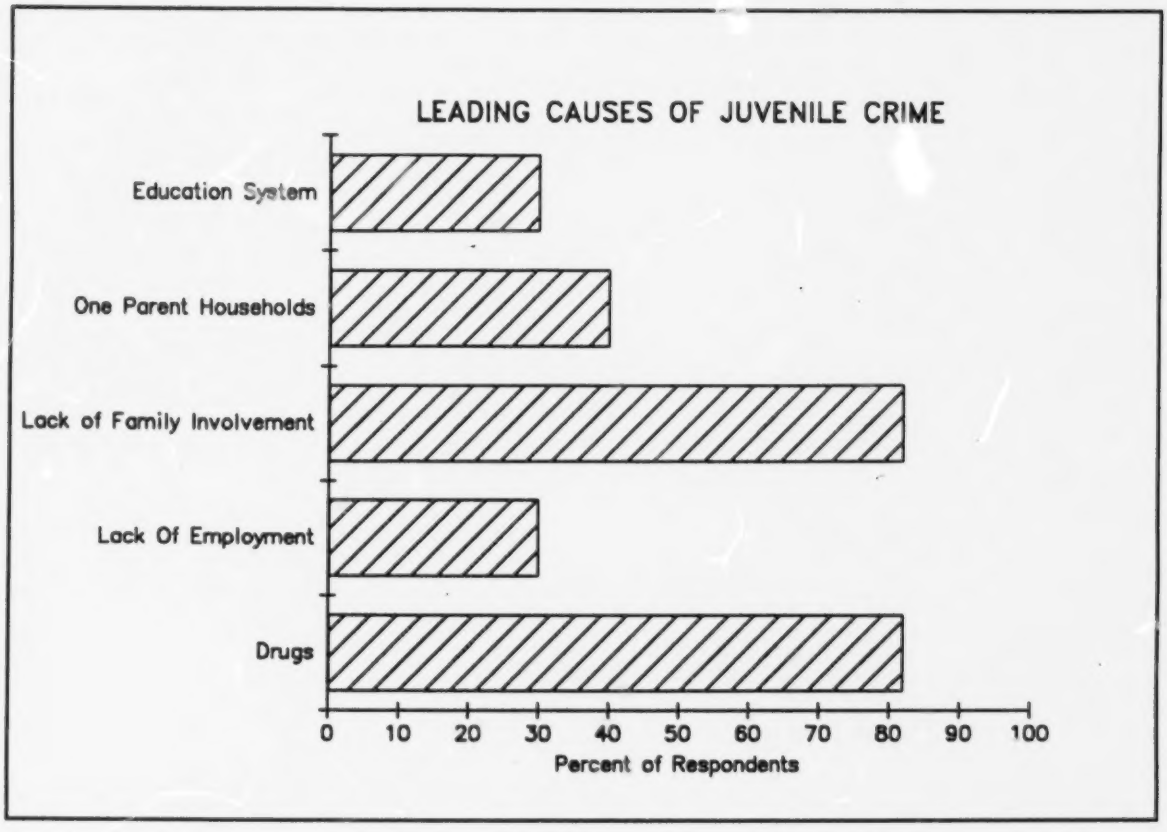
Question:

Should juveniles be subject to the death penalty?

Forty-two percent thought juveniles should be subject to the death penalty. More males (59%) than females (41%) were for the death penalty for juveniles.

Question:

What are the leading causes of juvenile crime?



According to the respondents, the leading causes of juvenile crime were lack of family involvement (82%) and drugs (81%).

Question:

Are there any youth gangs in your community?

Youth gangs were in the communities of 17% of the respondents.

Question:

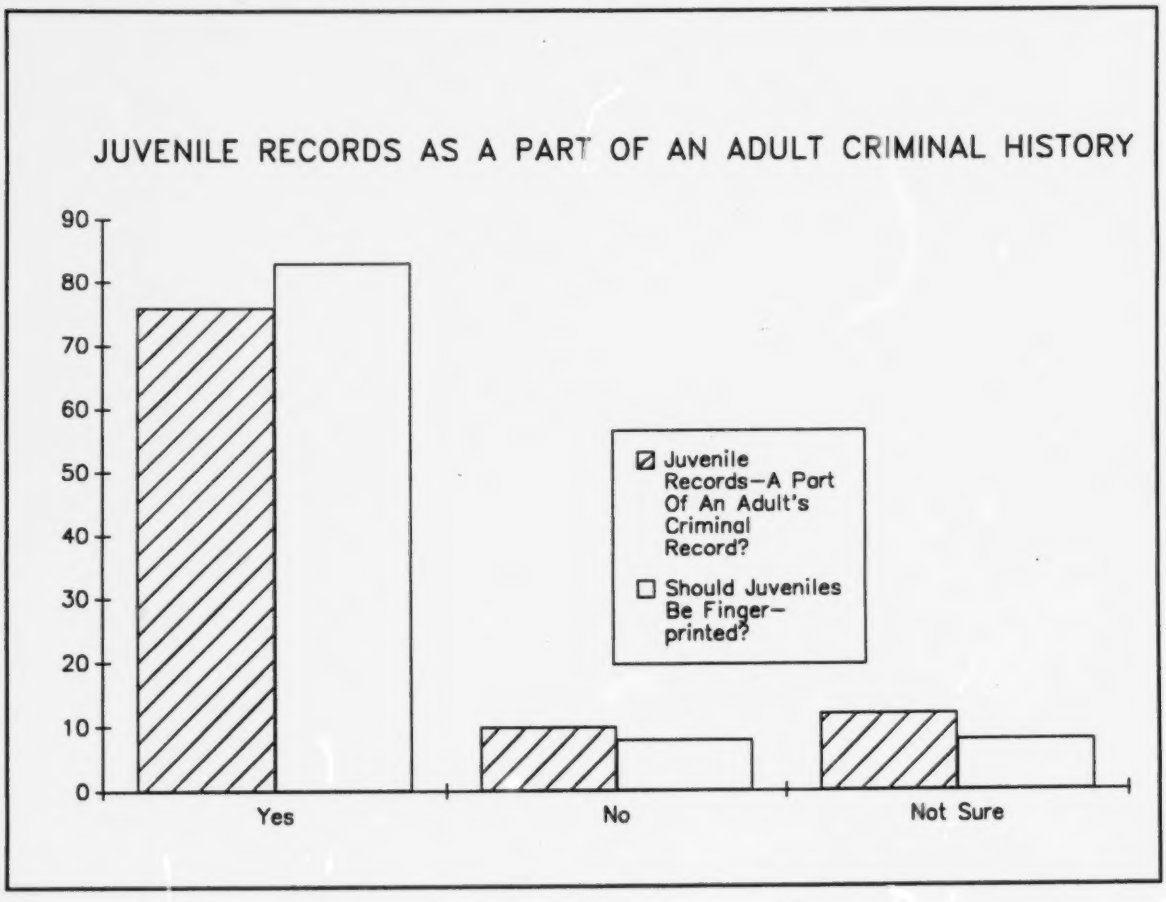
Tennessee law requires that juvenile offender files are sealed and all offense data is removed when a juvenile reaches a certain age. Due to this law, it is not possible to track an adult offender's criminal history beginning with a juvenile record.

A. Should juvenile records be included as part of an offender's criminal history?

Seventy-six percent of the respondents said that juvenile records should be included.

B. Should juveniles be fingerprinted in order to maintain a criminal history beginning with juvenile offenses?

Eighty-two percent reported that juveniles should be fingerprinted.



Child Abuse Issues

Some of the questions in this section concern victims of child abuse and Tennessee child abuse laws.

Question:

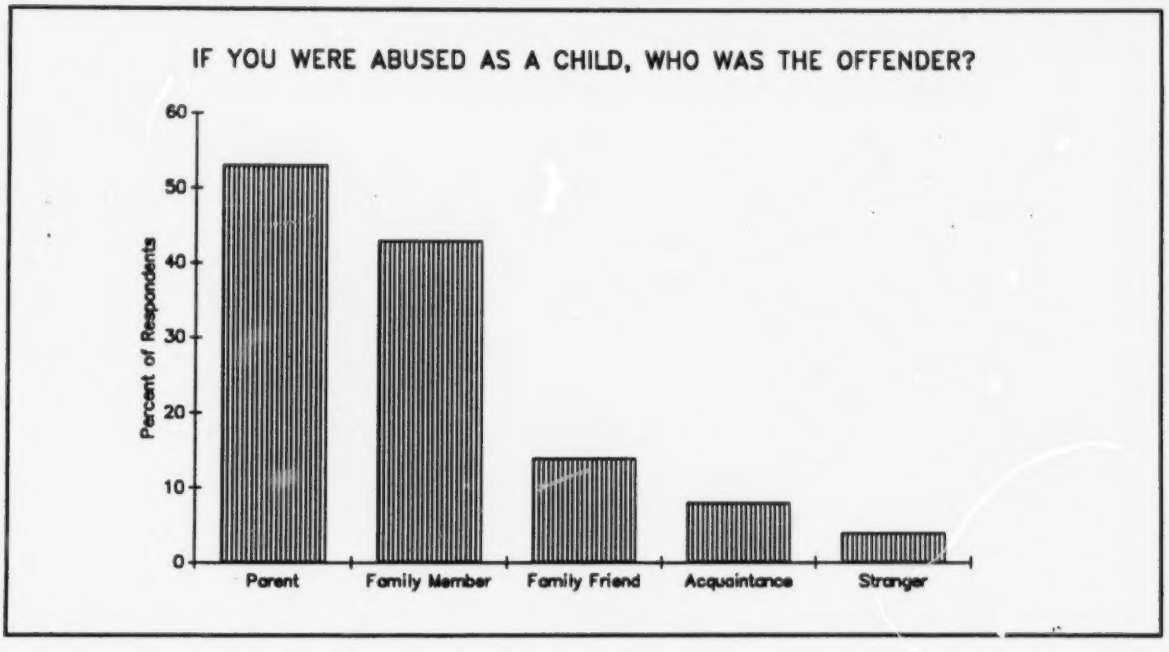
A. Were you ever the victim of abuse as a child?

Thirteen percent said they were victims of child abuse; 71% were female and 29% were male.

B. If you were abused, what type of abuse was it?

	Female	Male
Physical	48%	38%
Sexual	55%	32%
Emotional	56%	64%
Neglect	21%	31%
Other	0%	0%
Never A Victim	12%	38%

C. If you were abused as a child, was the offender:



Question:

A. If you were a victim of abuse as a child, did you ever report it to anyone?

Seven percent of females and 3% of males reported abuse to someone. Only 5% of the respondents answered this question.

B. If yes, who did you report it to?

Of the 45 respondents who were victims of child abuse, 51% said they reported it to a parent, 44% to a family member, 37% to a friend, 33% to a counselor, and 22% reported it to someone else not listed on the survey.

Question:

Did you know that Tennessee state law requires that persons working as child care providers must be screened for prior convictions of severe child abuse or child sexual abuse?

Thirty-three percent of the respondents knew that child care providers must be screened. There was no significant difference between the responses of males and females.

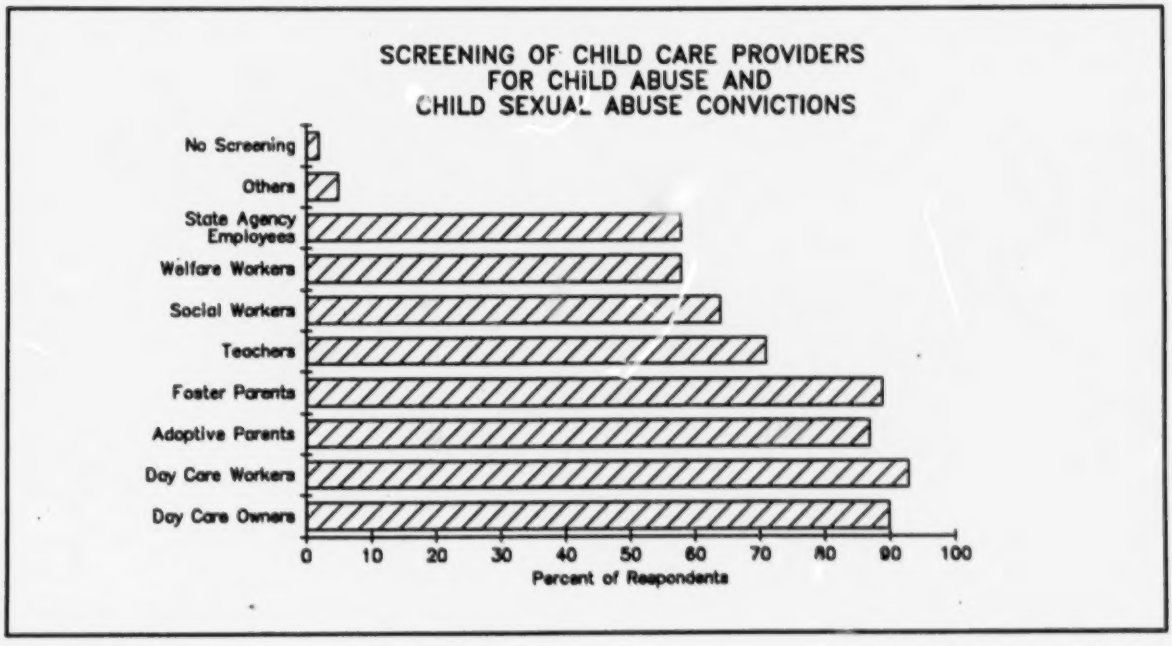
Question:

Do you believe such persons should be screened for these prior convictions?

Ninety-four percent of the respondents said that these persons should be screened.

Question:

Which of the following groups, if any, should be included in the screening process?



Question:

State law currently requires screening for Tennessee convictions only. Should the process include screening for convictions of severe child abuse and child sexual abuse outside of Tennessee?

Ninety-four percent of the respondents said there should be screening for convictions outside of Tennessee.

Question:

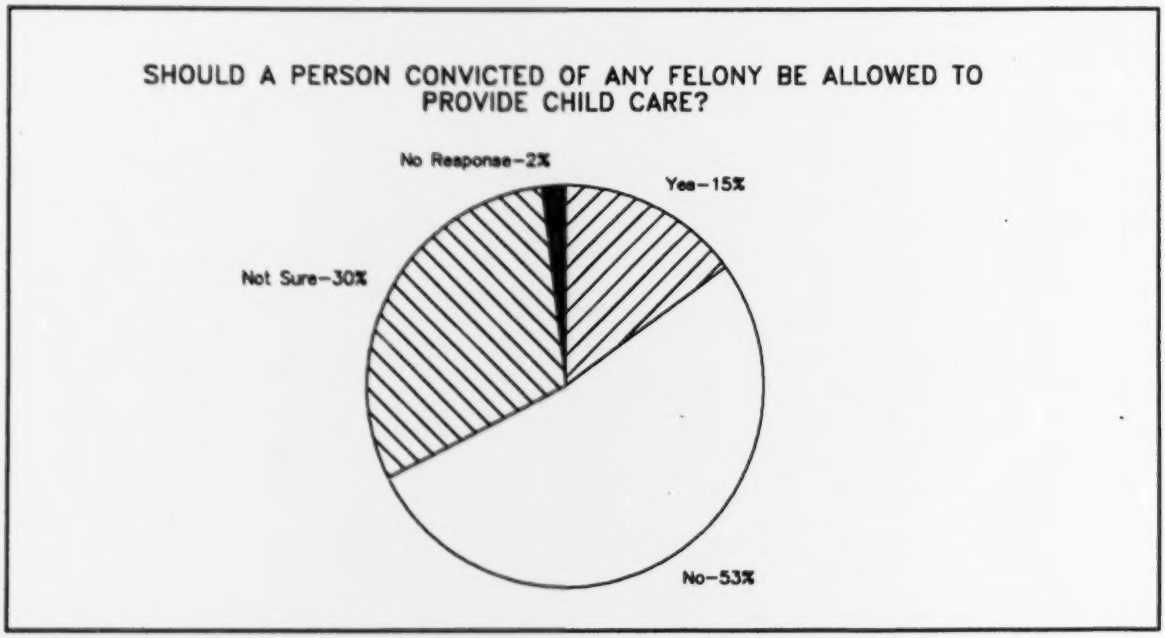
The process required by state law only requires a screening for convictions of "severe child abuse" or "child sexual abuse". Should the person be screened for any felony conviction (a felony is a crime punishable by one year, or greater sentence)?

Seventy-eight percent of the respondents thought persons should be screened for any felony convictions. There was not a significant difference between how females and males responded.

Question:

Should a person convicted of any felony be allowed to provide child care?

Only 15% answered yes to this question. More males(17%) than females(13%) thought a convicted felon should be allowed to provide child care.



Question:

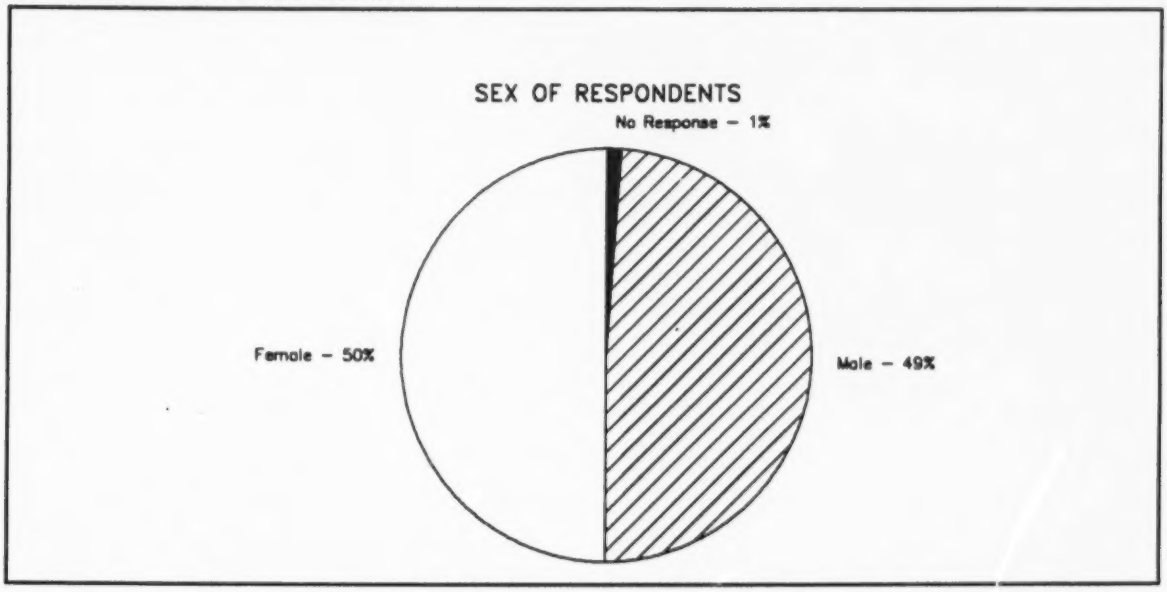
Should a convicted felon of sexual child abuse be allowed to live with or near children after completing their sentence?

A very small percentage (6%) of respondents answered yes to this question.

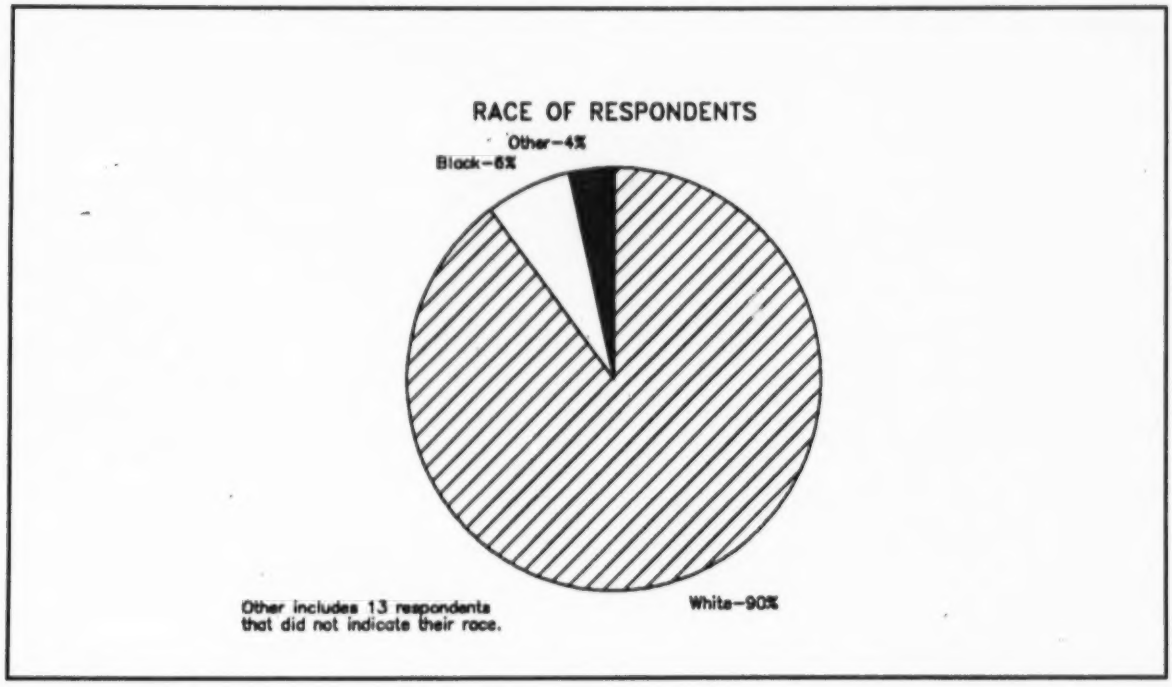
Characteristics of Respondents

This section of the survey asked for information about the characteristics of the respondents.

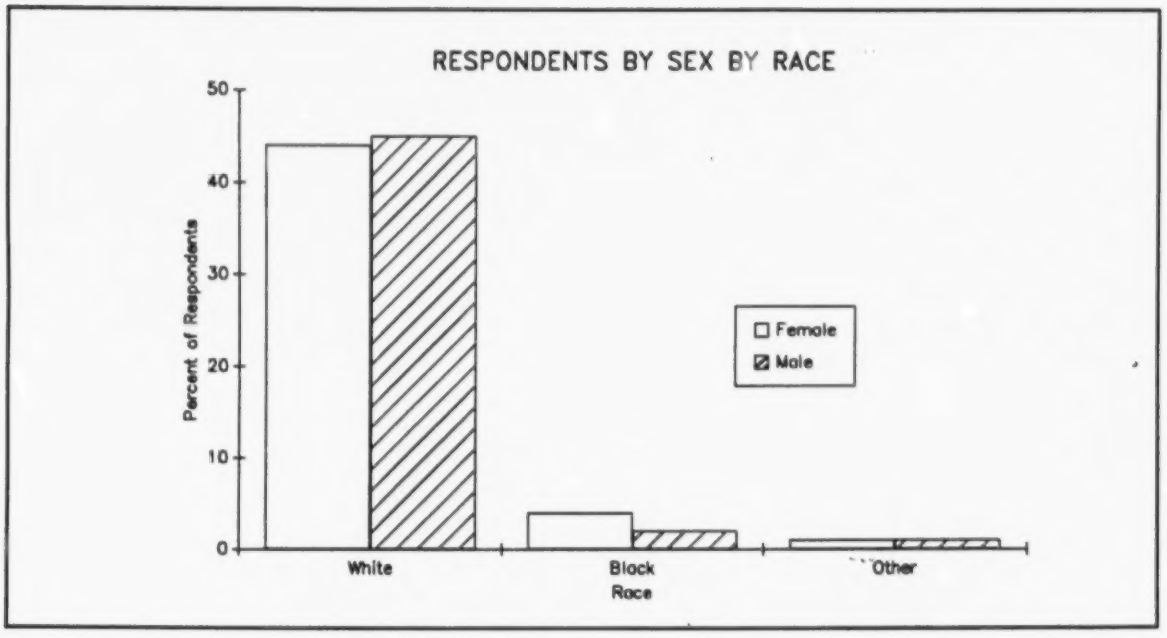
There was not a significant difference between the number of males and the number of females that responded to the survey. There were 470 female respondents, 460 male respondents and 13 respondents that did not indicate their sex.



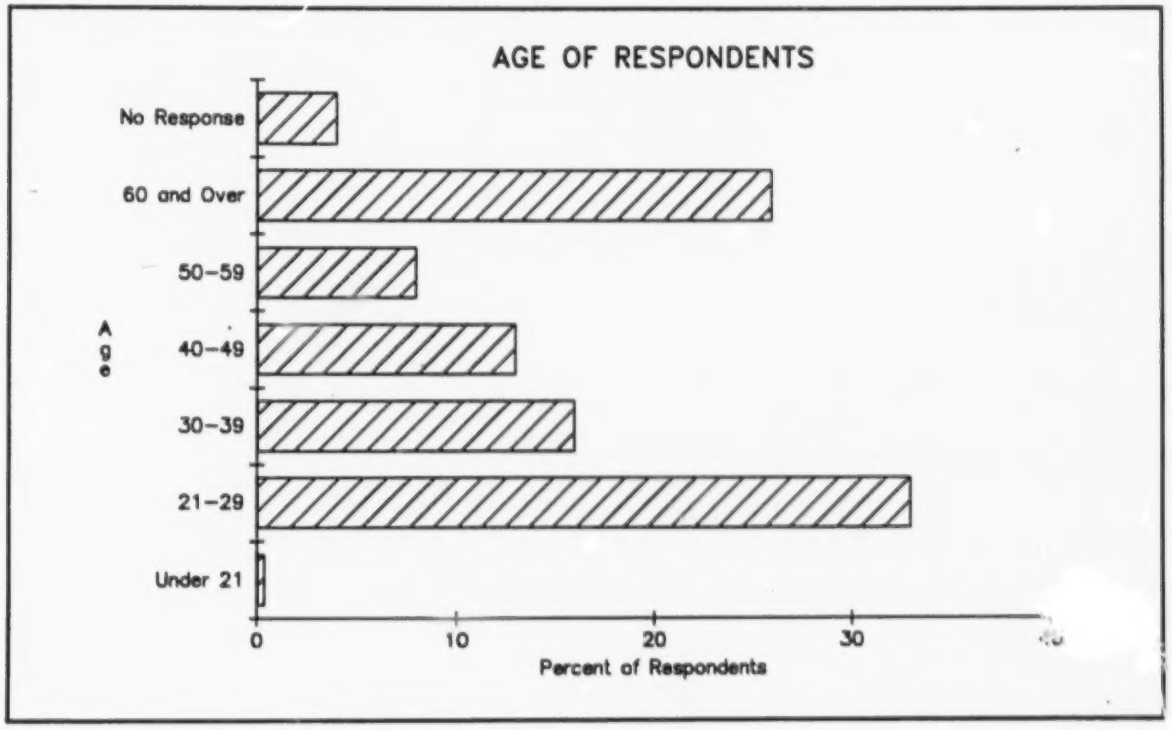
Most of the respondents were white. Out of 943 respondents, 847 were white, 62 were black and 33 were of other races or did not indicate their race.



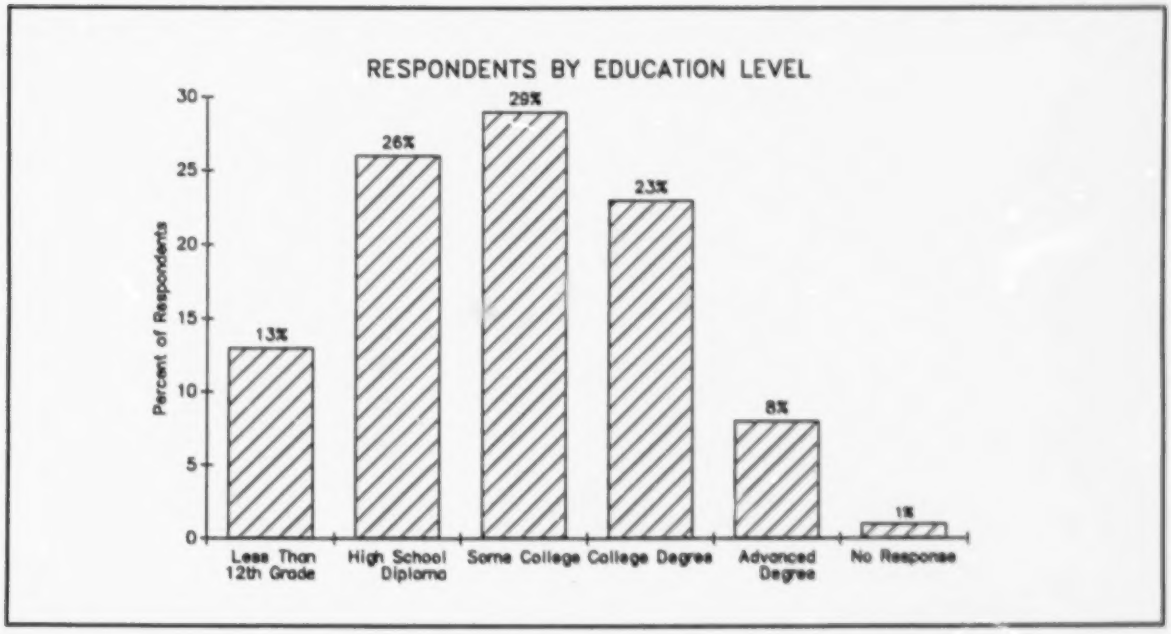
The breakout by race and sex was 44% white female, 45% white male, 4% black female, and 2% black male.



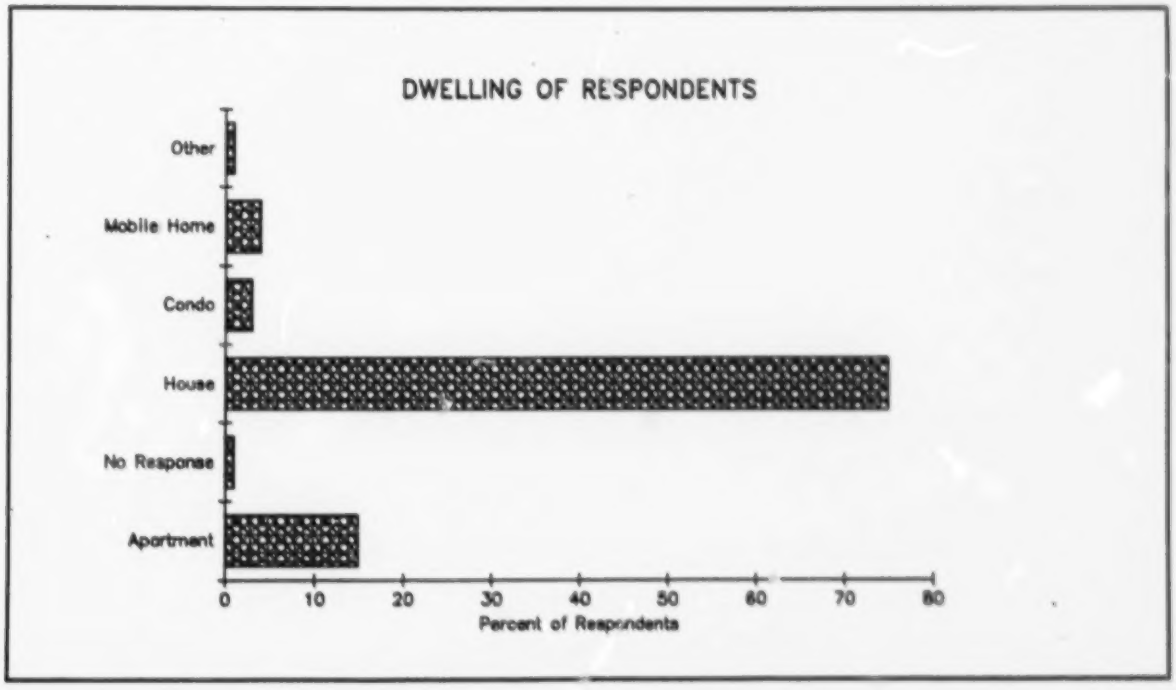
Respondents that answered the survey ranged in age from under 21 to over 60. The largest group came from the 21 to 29 and the 60 and over ages.



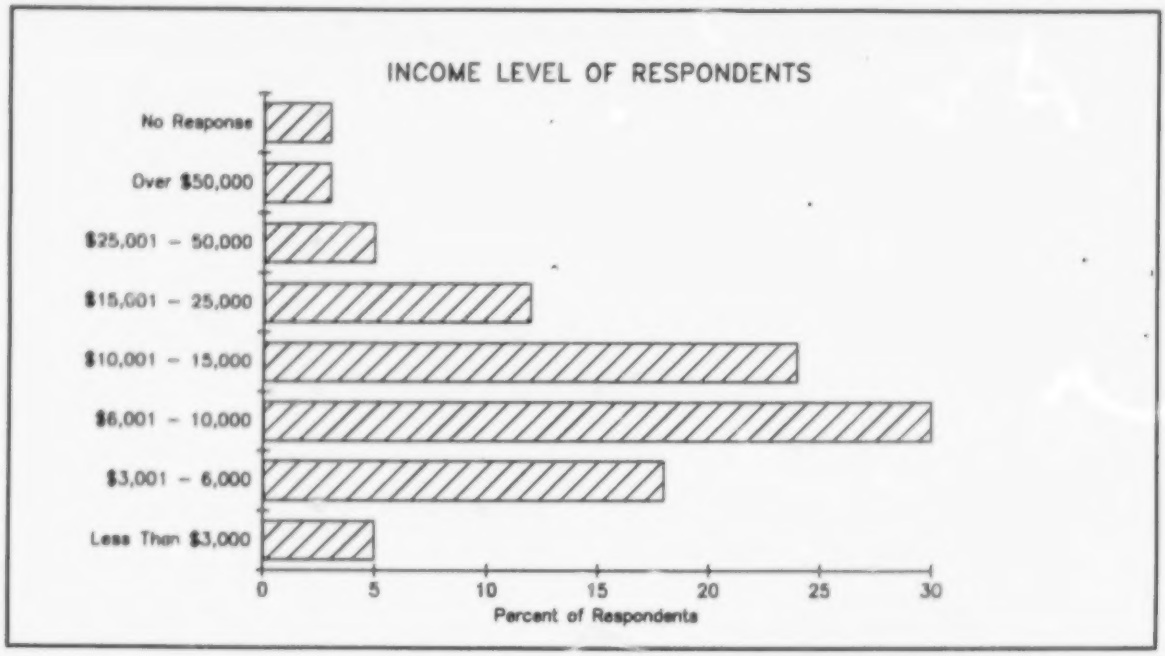
The majority of the respondents had at least a high school education. Over 29% had some college and almost 23% had a college diploma.



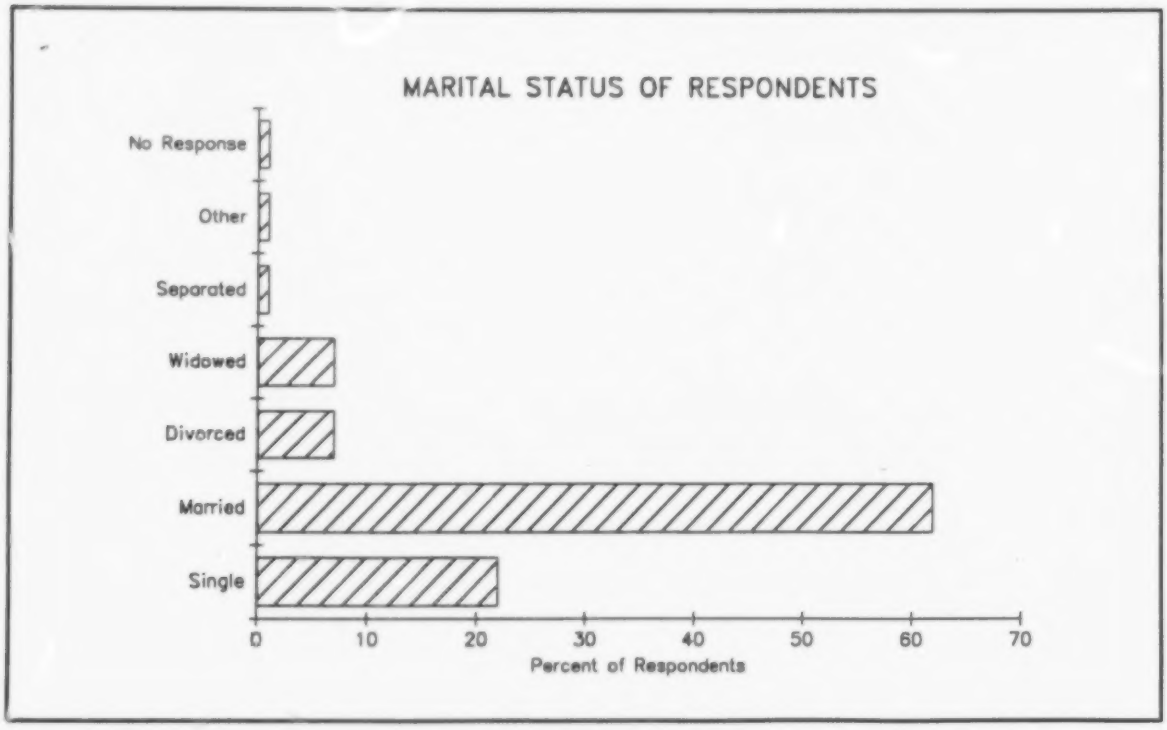
Most (75%) of the people answering the survey lived in a house. There was no significant difference between males and females that lived in a house.



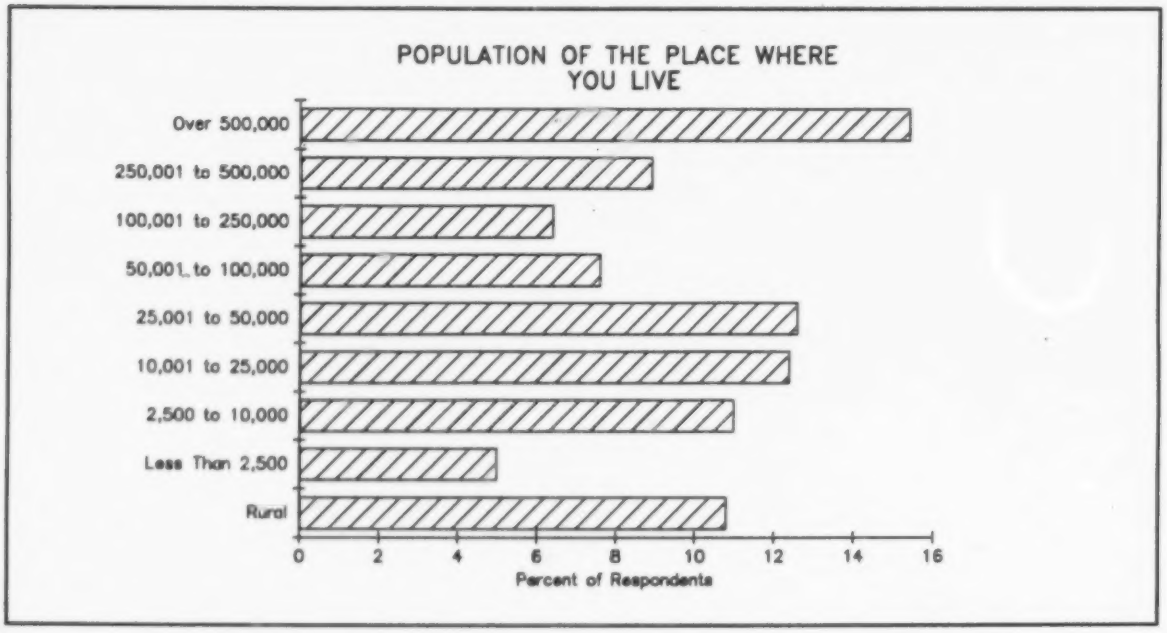
The income of the respondents ranged from less than $3000 to over $50,000. The greatest number of female respondents (28%) were in the $15,000 to $25,000 range and the greatest number of male respondents (33%) were in the $25,000 to $50,000 range.



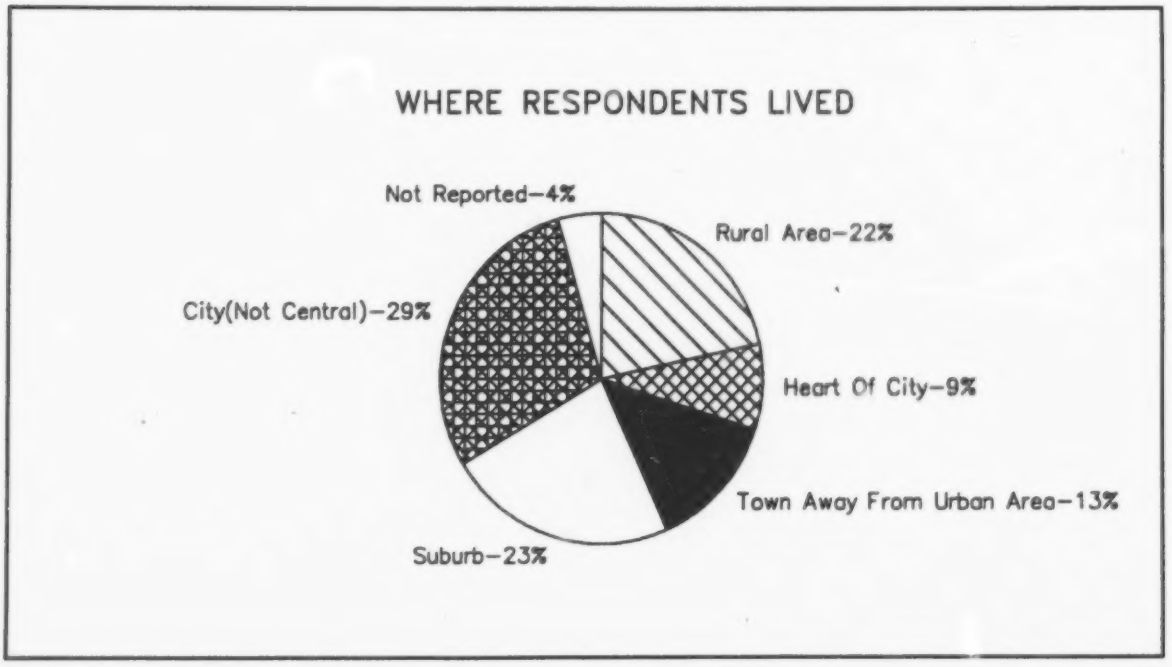
Sixty-two percent of the respondents were married. Fifty-five percent of the females and 69% of the males were married.



There was not a majority of respondents in any particular population size. Nine percent of the respondents lived in areas of 250,000 to 500,000 people. A little over 12% of the respondents lived in areas of 10,000 to 25,000 people while 12 1/2% of the respondents lived in areas of 25,000 to 50,000 people.



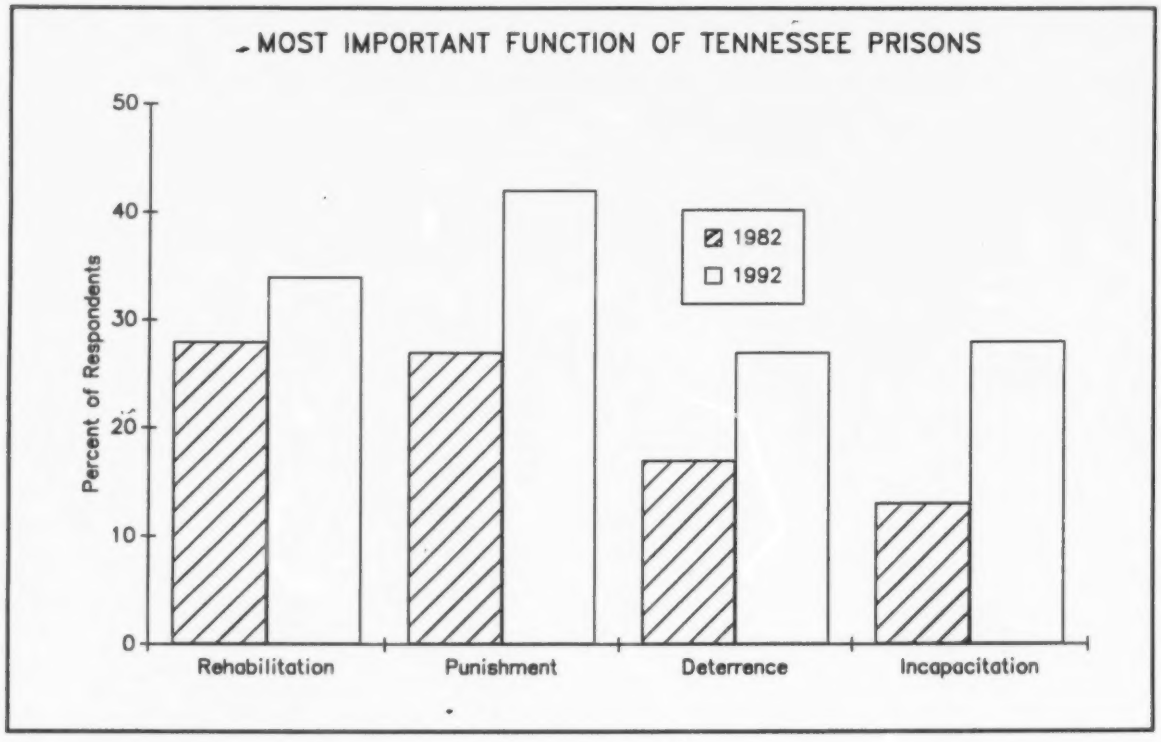
The smallest percentage(9%) of people lived in the heart of a city. About 30% of the respondents lived in the city but not in the central area. Tweny-three percent of females and 28% of males lived in the city but not in the central area.



Comparison of 1982 and 1992 Survey Results

Punishment

There is not a significant difference in most of the responses to the punishment questions in the 1982 and 1992 surveys. The following graph shows the results to one of the questions where there was some difference in the opinions of the respondents. Percentages may equal more than 100% due to respondents selecting more than one answer.



Fear of Crime

The percentage of respondents that thought they would be a victim of crime in the next year decreased from 55% in 1982 to 43% in 1992.

In 1982, 51% of the respondents were afraid to be home alone at night compared to 16% in 1992. The percentage of females who were afraid to be home alone at night decreased significantly from 72% in 1982 to 23% in 1992.

The percentage of females who were afraid of being a rape victim increased slightly from 12% in 1982 to 14% in 1992.

Guns were kept in the home for security purposes by 42% of 1982 respondents and by 38% of 1992 respondents. Door bolts for security purposes were in the homes of 34% of 1982 respondents and 53% of 1992 respondents. The percentage of respondents with outside security lights increased from 33% in 1982 to 45% in 1992.

How Well Is The Criminal Justice System Working?

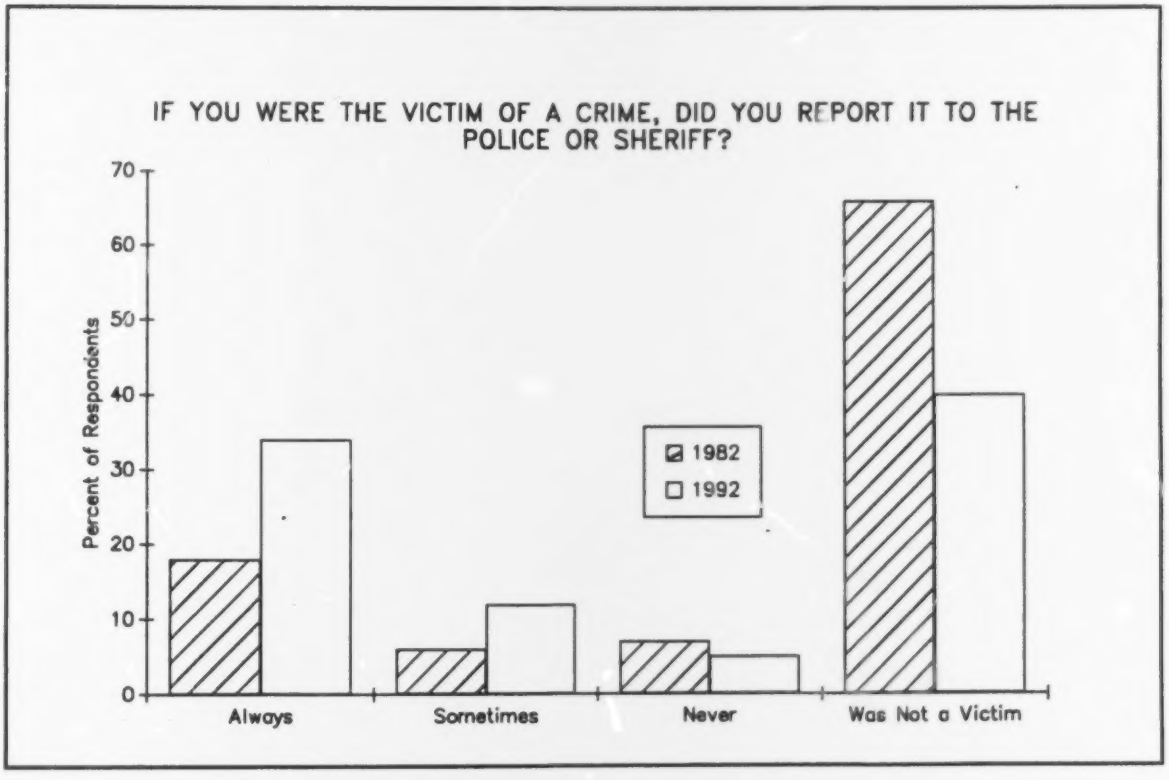
In dealing with convicted criminals, 84% of 1982 and 82% of 1992 respondents felt that the courts were too easy. One percent of the respondents in both surveys thought the courts were too harsh.

More respondents thought the police were doing a good job in 1992 (45%) than in 1982 (40%).

The use of drugs and narcotics as a reason for the crime problem was selected more frequently in 1992 (86%) than in 1982 (78%). The breakdown of family life and parental discipline as a reason for the crime problem was also chosen more frequently in 1992 (86%) than in 1982 (78%).

Crime Events

Many of the responses to the crime events questions were similar in both survey years. The graph below shows an area where there was a significant difference in the 1982 and 1992 responses. More respondents reported crime in 1992 compared to 1982 and fewer respondents were not victims of crime in the 1982 survey.

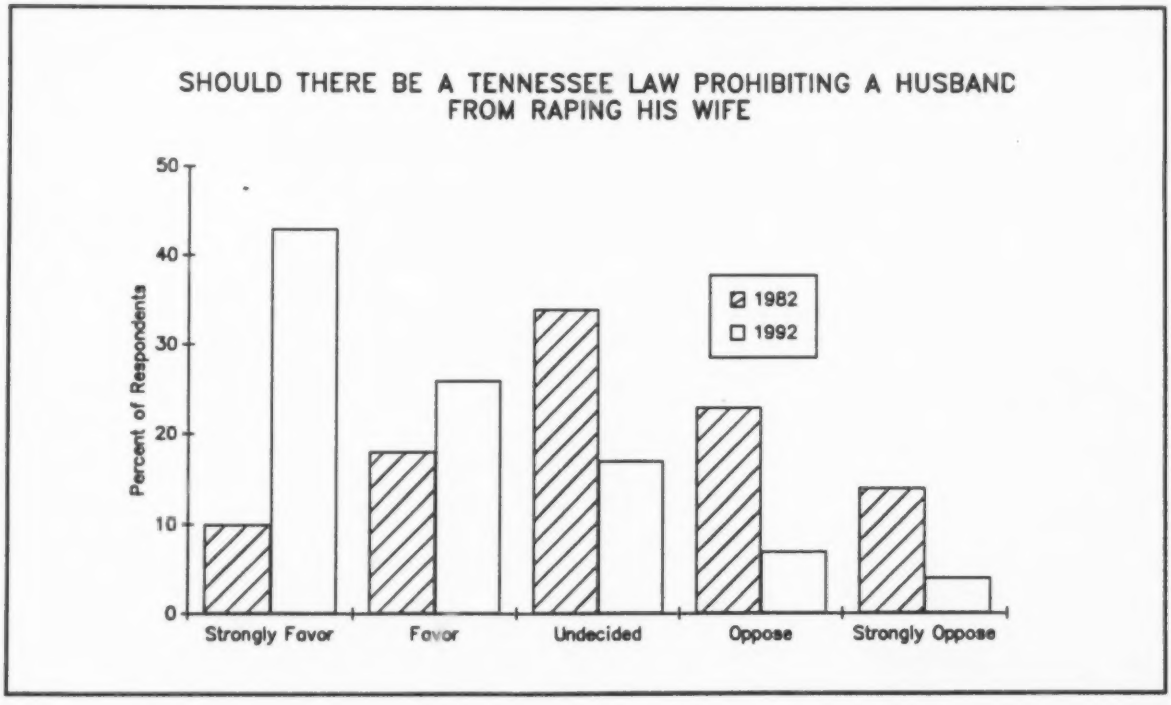


Public Attitudes

The following table shows how respondents differed in their opinions on items that should or should not be against the law.

	1982 Should Be Against The Law	1992 Should Be Against The Law	1982 Should Not Be Against The Law	1992 Should Not Be Against The Law
Gambling	47%	29%	33%	42%
Abortion	43%	32%	36%	50%
Homosexuality	58%	44%	24%	35%

There was some difference in opinion from 1982 to 1992 on the question of a Tennessee law prohibiting a man from raping his wife. See the graph below. More respondents were in favor of a spousal rape law in 1992 then in 1982.



Respondents thought that prisons should be located in rural areas (58% - 1982 , 57% - 1992).

The percentage favoring handgun registration increased from 61% in 1982 to 70% in 1992 as well as those favoring registration of "Saturday night specials" (51% - 1982, 59% - 1992). Fewer respondents (19%) in 1992 selected "guns should not be registered" than in 1982 (30%).

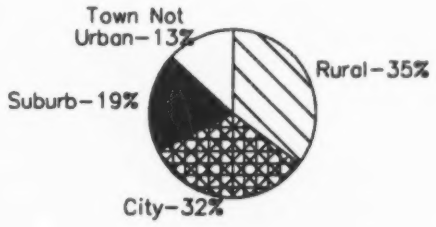
The percentage of respondents who owned a gun for sporting purposes and protection decreased from 49% in 1982 to 43% in 1992.

Fewer respondents (46%) in 1992 thought marijuana laws should be more severe than the 1982 percentage of 61%.

Characteristics of Respondents

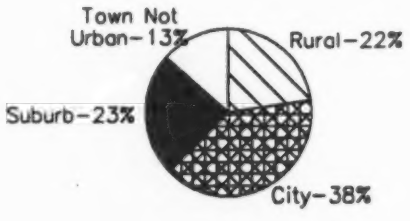
Some of the characteristics of the survey respondents in 1982 and 1992 are shown in the graphs on this page and the following pages. Most of the respondents in both surveys were married (67% - 1982 and 62% - 1992). Most of the respondents lived in houses (81% - 1982 and 75% - 1992).

WHERE RESPONDENTS LIVED IN 1982

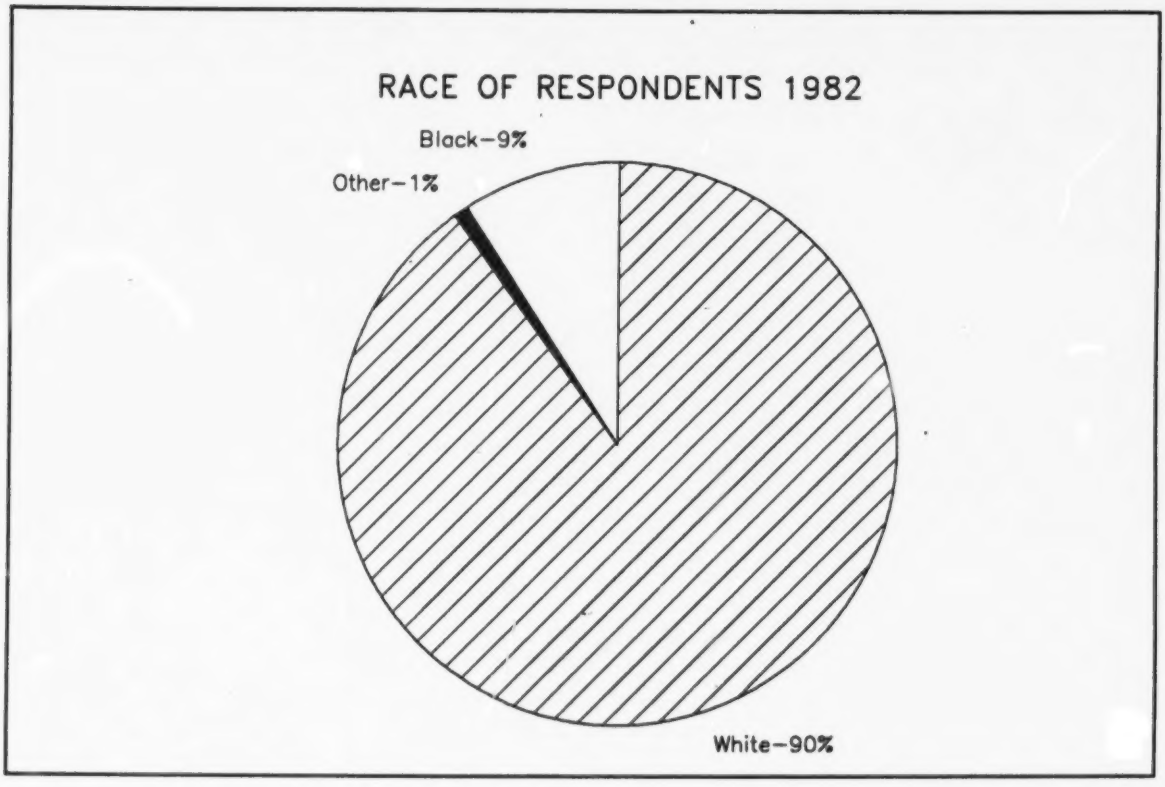


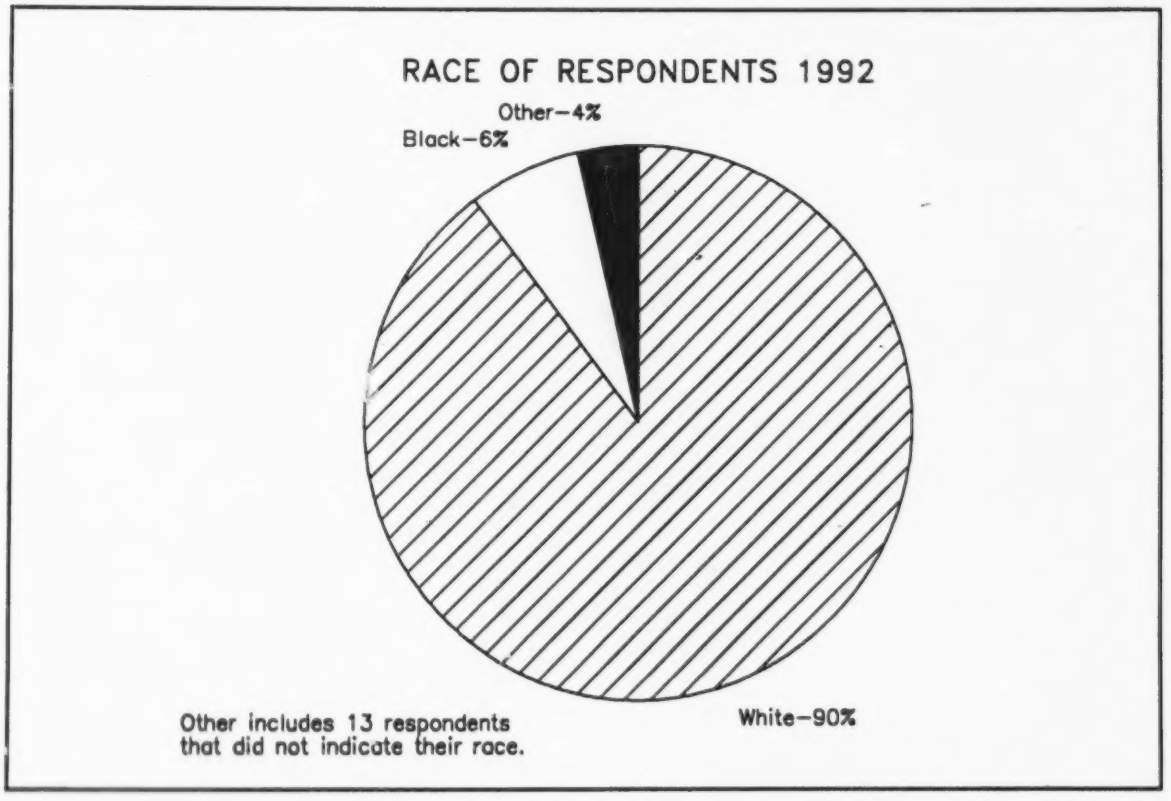
One percent of respondents are not represented

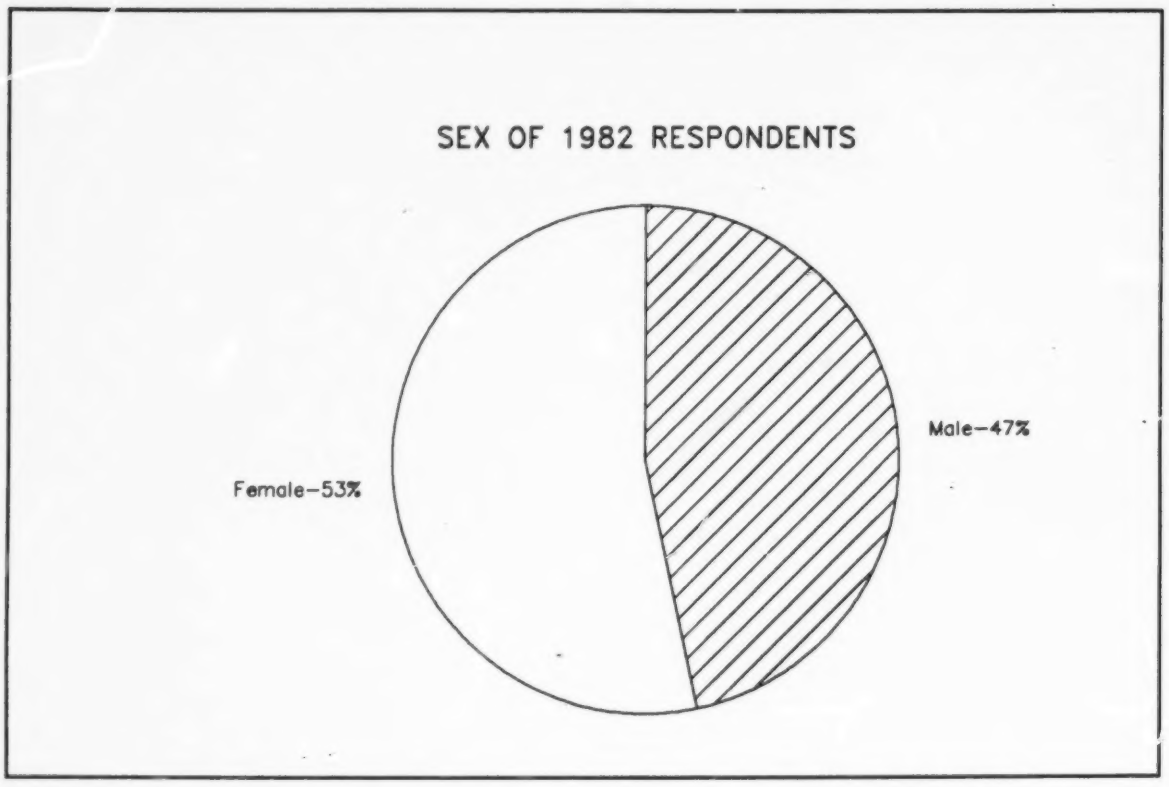
WHERE RESPONDENTS LIVED IN 1992

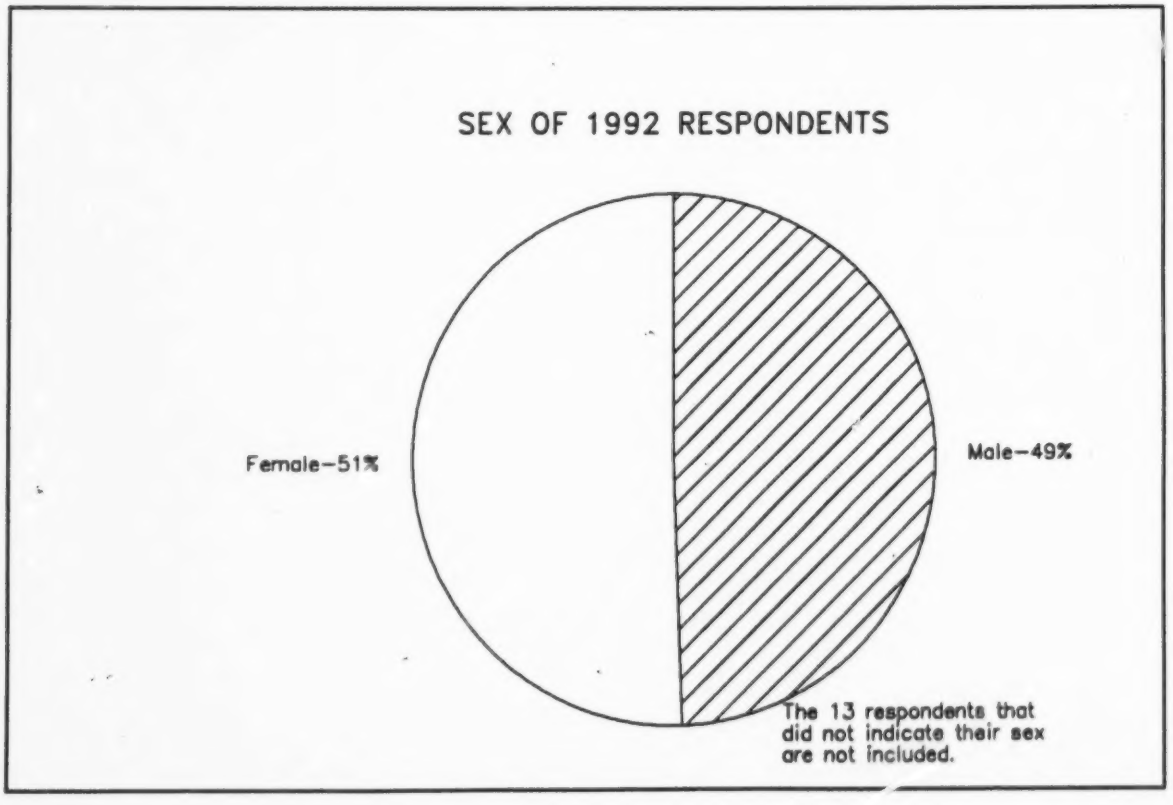


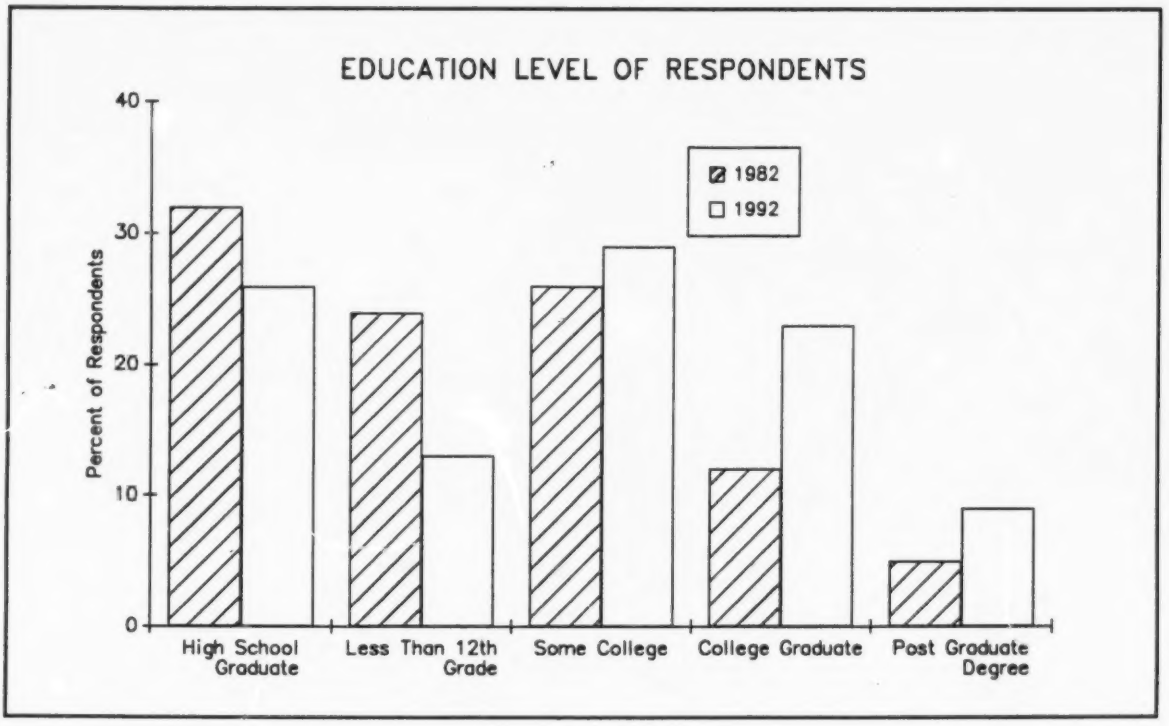
Four percent of respondents did not respond


RACE OF RESPONDENTS 1982
Black–9%
Other–1%
White–90%


RACE OF RESPONDENTS 1992
Other–4%
Black–6%
White–90%
Other includes 13 respondents
that did not indicate their race.


SEX OF 1982 RESPONDENTS
Male–47%
Female–53%


SEX OF 1992 RESPONDENTS
Male–49%
Female–51%
The 13 respondents that did not indicate their sex are not included.


EDUCATION LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS
Percent of Respondents
40
30
20
10
0
1982
1992
High School Graduate
Less Than 12th Grade
Some College
College Graduate
Post Graduate Degree

Appendix

SURVEY OF CRIME AND JUSTICE IN TENNESSEE 1992

TENNESSEE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER
TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SPT-SVCS

BI-0103

RDA Pending

SURVEY OF CRIME AND JUSTICE IN TENNESSEE

A similar survey was conducted in Tennessee in 1982. We want to know if opinions of Tennesseans have changed in the past ten years.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with your opinions on crime, the criminal, and the criminal justice system in Tennessee. Your answers will be treated confidentially.

Please answer every question by placing a mark between the brackets at the left of the answer. Some questions may have more than one answer that applies to you. If so, check all the answers that apply. If you need additional space to answer a question, or if you have any comments you would like to make, please use the back of the front page.

When you have completed the survey, please fold the survey in half and return it right away in the postage paid, addressed envelope provided for you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Tennessee Statistical Analysis Center
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
P.O. Box 100940
Nashville, TN 37224-0940

I. PUNISHMENT

1. Are you in favor of the death penalty being available for any of the following crimes? If so, please check which ones.
   - [ ] A. Murder
   - [ ] B. Rape
   - [ ] C. Armed robbery
   - [ ] D. Arson
   - [ ] E. Treason
   - [ ] F. Kidnapping
   - [ ] G. Sexual abuse of a child
   - [ ] H. Terrorism
   - [ ] I. Other (list) _____
   - [ ] J. I am not in favor of the death penalty for any crime.

2. What type of punishment should be given for someone convicted of murder?
   - [ ] A. Death penalty
   - [ ] B. Life without parole (not eligible for release until sentence expires)
   - [ ] C. Life with parole (eligible for release after at least 30 years)

3. Do you think that everyone released from prison should be supervised?
   - [ ] A. Yes
   - [ ] B. No

4A. Prisons may serve a number of different functions. Which one of the following should be the **most** important function for Tennessee prisons?
   - [ ] A. Rehabilitation
   - [ ] B. Punishment
   - [ ] C. Deterrence (to serve as an example to keep people from committing crimes)
   - [ ] D. Incapacitation (keeping criminals away from society)

4B. Which one of the following should be the **least** important function for Tennessee prisons?
   - [ ] A. Rehabilitation
   - [ ] B. Punishment
   - [ ] C. Deterrence (to serve as an example to keep people from committing crimes)
   - [ ] D. Incapacitation (keeping criminals away from society)

5. Regarding an inmate's release from prison, should they
   - [ ] A. Serve the full sentence
   - [ ] B. Be released early depending on their behavior in prison

6. Which of the following rights and privileges do you believe should be permitted when a convicted felon has completed their sentence? (Check as many as you agree with.)
   - [ ] A. The right to vote
   - [ ] B. The right to hold public office
   - [ ] C. Full and equal employment opportunities
   - [ ] D. The right to purchase firearms
   - [ ] E. Other (list) _____
   - [ ] F. None of these privileges listed above should be permitted.
   - [ ] G. All citizenship rights should be reinstated.

7. Who do you think should decide the defendant's punishment, the judge or the jury?
   - [ ] A. Judge
   - [ ] B. Jury

II. FEAR OF CRIME

1. Is there any area within one mile of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No

2. Would you be afraid to walk alone in your neighborhood at night?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No

3. Are you afraid to be in your home alone at night?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No

4. Do you feel that you may be the victim of any of the following crimes within the next year? If so, please check which ones.
   [ ] A. Rape
   [ ] B. Robbery (using force, or threat of force, to take someone's money or property from them)
   [ ] C. Assault with body (hands or feet)
   [ ] D. Assault with weapon
   [ ] E. Burglary (breaking into a house or business with intent to commit a crime)
   [ ] F. Theft
   [ ] G. Vehicle theft
   [ ] H. Vandalism
   [ ] I. Other (list) _____
   [ ] J. I do not think that I will be the victim of a crime within the next year.

5. Which, if any, of the following devices have you placed in your home for reasons of security?
   [ ] A. Burglar alarm
   [ ] B. Door bolt
   [ ] C. Extra door lock
   [ ] D. Window guard
   [ ] E. Gun
   [ ] F. Police department identification sticker
   [ ] G. Guard dog
   [ ] H. Outside security light
   [ ] I. Other (list) _____
   [ ] J. I have not installed any security devices in my home.

III. HOW WELL IS THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM WORKING?

1. A person may be released from jail until their trial by posting a bond of a certain amount to the court. If a person is out of jail on bond for a serious (felony) offense and that person is arrested for another serious offense, should they be allowed out of jail on bond for the second offense?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No

2. In general, when dealing with convicted criminals, do you feel the courts are
   [ ] A. Too easy
   [ ] B. Doing a good job
   [ ] C. Too harsh

3. In preparing people to return to society, do you think that the Tennessee prison system is
   [ ] A. Doing an excellent job
   [ ] B. Doing a good job
   [ ] C. Doing a fair job
   [ ] D. Doing a poor job

4. How would you rate the job being done by the police department in your community?
   [ ] A. Excellent
   [ ] B. Good
   [ ] C. Fair
   [ ] D. Poor

5. How would you rate the job being done by your sheriff's department?
   [ ] A. Excellent
   [ ] B. Good
   [ ] C. Fair
   [ ] D. Poor

6. Over the past three years, do you feel the crime problem in your community has:
   [ ] A. Improved
   [ ] B. Stayed the same
   [ ] C. Become worse

7. Which of the following do you believe are responsible for our crime problem?
   [ ] A. Laxity of courts and law enforcement
   [ ] B. Breakdown of family life and parental discipline
   [ ] C. Population increase
   [ ] D. Moral decay
   [ ] E. Use of drugs and narcotics
   [ ] F. Increased mobility of the population
   [ ] G. Too much leisure time
   [ ] H. The economy
   [ ] I. Government practices and policies
   [ ] J. Other (explain)_____

8. During the next three years, do you feel that the crime problem in your community will
   [ ] A. Improve
   [ ] B. Stay about the same
   [ ] C. Become worse

IV. CRIME EVENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR (1991) AND IN YOUR LIFETIME

We are interested in knowing if you were the victim of any of the following crimes during the previous year or in your lifetime.

1. **Burglary**
   Dd anyone break into your home and take something or attempt to take something?
   In 1991: [ ] A. No In your lifetime: [ ] C. No
   [ ] B. Yes [ ] D. Yes

2. **Motor Vehicle Theft**
   Did anyone steal or attempt to steal a motor vehicle belonging to you?
   In 1991: [ ] A. No In your lifetime: [ ] C. No
   [ ] B. Yes [ ] D. Yes

3. **Other Theft**
Were any other valuable items or property stolen from you that were not mentioned previously?
In 1991: [ ] A. No In your lifetime: [ ] C. No
[ ] B. Yes [ ] D. Yes

4. **Robbery**
Did anyone take something from you by force or threat of force?
In 1991: [ ] A. No In your lifetime: [ ] C. No
[ ] B. Yes [ ] D. Yes

5. **Assault With Weapon**
Did anyone threaten or attack you with a knife, gun, club, or other weapon?
In 1991: [ ] A. No In your lifetime: [ ] C. No
[ ] B. Yes [ ] D. Yes

6. **Assault With Body**
Did anyone threaten or attack you with their fist, feet, or other bodily attack?
In 1991: [ ] A. No In your lifetime: [ ] C. No
[ ] B. Yes [ ] D. Yes

7A. **Rape or Attempted Rape**
Did someone have or attempt to have sex with you against your will?
In 1991: [ ] A. No In your lifetime: [ ] C. No
[ ] B. Yes [ ] D. Yes

7B. If yes, was the person:
[ ] A. A stranger
[ ] B. An acquaintance
[ ] C. A date
[ ] D. A spouse
[ ] E. Other (explain) _____

8. **Vandalism or Malicious Mischief**
Did anyone intentionally destroy or damage property belonging to you?
In 1991: [ ] A. No In your lifetime: [ ] C. No
[ ] B. Yes [ ] D. Yes

9. If you were the victim of a crime, did you report it to the police or sheriff?
[ ] A. Always
[ ] B. Sometimes
[ ] C. Never
[ ] D. Was not a victim of a crime during the last year.

10. If you did not report a crime to the police, what was the reason for not reporting the crime? (Check all that apply)
[ ] A. Afraid
[ ] B. Was involved in the crime
[ ] C. Felt sorry for offender
[ ] D. Crime was due to my own carelessness or stupidity
[ ] E. Offender agreed to return property
[ ] F. Didn't want to get involved
[ ] G. Lack of confidence in the justice system
[ ] H. Really not serious
[ ] I. Didn't want name in paper
[ ] J. Wanted to take care of it myself

11. If you were a victim of a crime, was the offender
[ ] A. An adult
[ ] B. A juvenile
[ ] C. Don't know

12. During the past year or in your lifetime, was anyone you knew the victim of murder?
[ ] A. Yes
[ ] B. No

13. If you knew anyone who was a murder victim, were they your:
[ ] A. Husband or wife
[ ] B. Son or daughter
[ ] C. Parent
[ ] D. Mother-in-law or father-in-law
[ ] E. Brother or sister
[ ] F. Grandparent
[ ] G. Cousin
[ ] H. Aunt or uncle
[ ] I. Neice or nephew
[ ] J. Neighbor
[ ] K. An associate at work
[ ] L. Close friend (not a neighbor)
[ ] M. Other (explain)_____

V. PUBLIC ATTITUDES

1. Should the following items be illegal?

a. Gambling
[ ] A. Should be against the law
[ ] B. Should not be against the law
[ ] C. Not sure

b. Abortion
[ ] A. Should be against the law
[ ] B. Should not be against the law
[ ] C. Not sure

c. Attempted Suicide
[ ] A. Should be against the law
[ ] B. Should not be against the law
[ ] C. Not sure

d. Prostitution
[ ] A. Should be against the law
[ ] B. Should not be against the law
[ ] C. Not sure

e. Homosexuality
- [ ] A. Should be against the law
- [ ] B. Should not be against the law
- [ ] C. Not sure

f. Use of Marijuana
- [ ] A. Should be against the law
- [ ] B. Should not be against the law
- [ ] C. Not sure

g. Public Intoxication
- [ ] A. Should be against the law
- [ ] B. Should not be against the law
- [ ] C. Not sure

2. How important do you consider the following items?
(Rate each according to: 1-very important, 2-occasionally important, 3-of little importance, 4-of no importance)
- ___ A. Church membership
- ___ B. Voting
- ___ C. School grades
- ___ D. Financial success
- ___ E. Social success
- ___ F. Keeping American traditions
- ___ G. Being with family
- ___ H. Law and order
- ___ I. Being an American
- ___ J. Being a Tennessean

3. Place a check in the brackets by the statements you agree with.
- [ ] A. In spite of what some people say, the lot of the average man is getting worse.
- [ ] B. It's hardly fair to bring children into the world with the way things look for the future.
- [ ] C. Nowadays a person has to live pretty much for today and let tomorrow take care of itself.
- [ ] D. These days a person doesn't really know who he can count on.
- [ ] E. There's little use writing to public officials because often they aren't really interested in the problems of the average man.

4. Are you a member of:
- [ ] A. Catholic Church
- [ ] B. Jewish Synagogue
- [ ] C. Protestant Church (Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.)
- [ ] D. Other (list)_____
- [ ] E. None

5. Which of the following best describes your church attendance? (Check only one)
- [ ] A. Once or twice a week
- [ ] B. Once or twice a month
- [ ] C. Once every other month
- [ ] D. Once or twice a year
- [ ] E. Never or less than once a year

6. Most criminals should not really be blamed for the things they have done.
   [ ] A. Agree
   [ ] B. Disagree
   [ ] C. Undecided

7. Most things that people call delinquency do not really hurt anyone.
   [ ] A. Agree
   [ ] B. Disagree
   [ ] C. Undecided

8. The person who leaves their keys in a car is as much to blame for its theft as the one who steals it.
   [ ] A. Agree
   [ ] B. Disagree
   [ ] C. Undecided

9. Most crime and delinquency is the result of someone being influenced by a "Bad" crowd.
   [ ] A. Agree
   [ ] B. Disagree
   [ ] C. Undecided

10. Are you in favor of Tennessee having a law that prohibits a man from having sex with his wife against her will (raping)?
   [ ] A. Strongly favor
   [ ] B. Favor
   [ ] C. Undecided
   [ ] D. Oppose
   [ ] E. Strongly oppose

11. Some states make arrangements so that inmates in prison can visit with their husband or wife in a private room. These visits are called conjugal visits and they may have sexual relations during the visits. Conjugal visits are not permitted in Tennessee. Which of the following best describes your feelings concerning conjugal visits in Tennessee prisons?
   [ ] A. I believe that conjugal visits should be allowed on a regular basis for all inmates.
   [ ] B. I believe that conjugal visits should be allowed for inmates who have good behavior records while in Tennessee prisons.
   [ ] C. I do not believe that conjugal visits should ever be allowed for inmates in Tennessee prisons.

12. Tennessee prisons have traditionally been placed in rural areas away from population centers and have developed agriculture programs to help feed the inmates. Some people have suggested the development of prisons in urban areas (cities) so that it would be easier for the families of inmates to visit them. Where do you favor the placement of new prison facilities?
   [ ] A. Rural areas
   [ ] B. Urban areas
   [ ] C. Combination of rural and urban areas
   [ ] D. Undecided (not certain)

13. If you favor gun registration, which types of guns do you think should be registered? (You may check more than one if necessary)
   [ ] A. Rifles
   [ ] B. Shotguns
   [ ] C. Hand guns
   [ ] D. "Saturday Night Specials"
   [ ] E. Other (list) _____
   [ ] F. I do not favor gun registration.

14. If you have a gun in your home, do you keep it mainly for (check only one)
[ ] A. Sporting purposes
[ ] B. Protection
[ ] C. Both sporting purposes and protection
[ ] D. Other (list) _____
[ ] E. I do not have a gun in my home.

15. Do you think that victims of crimes should be paid back for any losses or injuries that are caused by a criminal act?
[ ] A. Victims should not be paid back.
[ ] B. Victims should be paid back by the state.
[ ] C. Victims should be paid back by the person convicted of that particular crime.

16. In regards to the present laws in Tennessee for the use of marijuana, do you think the laws should be
[ ] A. More severe
[ ] B. Left as they are
[ ] C. Less severe
[ ] D. There should be no laws against the use of marijuana

17. If a person is convicted of rape, should they be permitted to remain out of jail on bond while their conviction is being appealed?
[ ] A. Yes
[ ] B. No

18. If a person has been convicted of a prior sexual crime, should a judge have the power to deny bail to that individual in cases where they are charged with a new sexual offense?
[ ] A. Yes
[ ] B. No

19. Do you think that rulings by courts in the area of law enforcement: (Check one)
[ ] A. Have severely hindered police in their efforts to control crime
[ ] B. Have somewhat hindered police in their efforts to control crime
[ ] C. Have not hindered police in their efforts to control crim

20. In order to have a better criminal justice system, would you be willing to pay higher taxes to support any of the following? Place a check in the bracket next to the services you would pay higher taxes to support.
[ ] A. More police officers
[ ] B. More detectives
[ ] C. More drug enforcement investigators
[ ] D. Better equipment
[ ] E. More training
[ ] F. More local jail facilities
[ ] G. More judges
[ ] H. More prosecutors
[ ] I. More courtrooms
[ ] J. More court personnel (bailiffs, court clerks, etc.)

21. Have you marked your possessions (TV, stereo , etc.) with your Tennessee driver's license number so they can be identified by the police if they are stolen?
[ ] A. Yes
[ ] B. No

22. Do you have a neighborhood crime watch program in your town?
[ ] A. Yes
[ ] B. No
[ ] C. Don't know

23. People are sometimes allowed to serve their prison or jail sentences by staying in their own communities instead of actually going to prison or jail. If the person breaks the rules of this "probation" they may then have to serve the sentence in prison or jail.

Do you think that persons convicted of the following crimes should be considered for probation? If so, check which ones.

[ ] A. Aggravated assault (intentionally causing serious bodily injury to another)
[ ] B. Arson
[ ] C. Motor vehicle theft
[ ] D. Burglary (breaking into a house or business with intent to take something)
[ ] E. Driving while intoxicated
[ ] F. Murder
[ ] G. Rape
[ ] H. Robbery (using force, or threat of force, to take someone's money or property from them)
[ ] J. Sale of marijuana
[ ] K. Shoplifting
[ ] L. Theft
[ ] M. Use of illegal drugs (other than marijuana)
[ ] N. Use of marijuana
[ ] O. Child abuse or child sexual abuse
[ ] P. I do not think that anyone convicted of one of these crimes should be considered for probation.

24. For non-violent crimes, do you support limiting the offender to the boundaries of their home and grounds rather than prison, with a method of monitoring the offender?

[ ] A. Yes
[ ] B. No
[ ] C. Don't know

25. What form of punishment do you consider most humane in a death penalty?

[ ] A. Electric chair
[ ] B. Gas chamber
[ ] C. Lethal injection
[ ] D. Firing squad
[ ] E. Hanging
[ ] F. Other (explain)_____

26. Do you think that crime and violence shown on television have:

[ ] A. Caused a large increase in crime
[ ] B. Caused a moderate increase in crime
[ ] C. Caused very little increase in crime
[ ] D. Had no effect on the crime rate

27. What is the biggest single crime problem in your community? (Select only one)

[ ] A. Vandalism
[ ] B. Theft or burglary
[ ] C. Drugs and narcotics
[ ] D. Drunk driving
[ ] E. Speeding or other traffic law violations
[ ] F. Robbery or assault
[ ] G. Other (explain) _____

28. Which of the following tax increases would you support in order to finance new prisons and jails?
[ ] A. Alcohol tax
[ ] B. Tobacco tax
[ ] C. Sales tax
[ ] D. State income tax
[ ] E. Business tax
[ ] F. Other (explain)_____
[ ] G. I do not support a tax increase

29. Have you ever had a family member injured or killed by a drunk driver?
[ ] A. Yes
[ ] B. No

30. Have you ever driven a vehicle when you have had too much to drink?
[ ] A. Yes
[ ] B. No
[ ] C. Not sure

31. Have you ever been a passenger in a vehicle when the driver had too much to drink?
[ ] A. Yes
[ ] B. No
[ ] C. Not sure

32. Have you ever prevented a person from driving who has had too much to drink?
[ ] A. Yes
[ ] B. No

33. Do you think that senior citizens are more likely to be victims of crime than persons in any other age group?
[ ] A. Yes
[ ] B. No

VI. JUVENILE ISSUES

1. Should the emphasis in juvenile criminal justice be:
[ ] A. Punishment
[ ] B. Treatment
[ ] C. Don't know

2. In regards to juvenile offenders, do you think the system is:
[ ] A. Too easy
[ ] B. Too hard
[ ] C. About right

3. Should juveniles be subject to the death penalty?
[ ] A. Yes
[ ] B. No

4. What are the leading causes of juvenile crime? (Check all that apply)
   [ ] A. Drugs
   [ ] B. Lack of employment
   [ ] C. Lack of family involvement
   [ ] D. One parent households
   [ ] E. Education system
   [ ] F. Other (explain) _____

5. Are there any youth gangs in your community?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No
   [ ] C. Don't know

6. Tennessee law requires that juvenile offender files are sealed and all offense data is removed when a juvenile reaches a certain age. Due to this law, it is not possible to track an adult offender's criminal history beginning with a juvenile record.
   A. Should juvenile records be included as part of an offender's criminal history?
      [ ] A. Yes
      [ ] B. No
      [ ] C. Don't know

   B. Should juveniles be fingerprinted in order to maintain a criminal history beginning with juvenile offenses?
      [ ] A. Yes
      [ ] B. No
      [ ] C. Don't know

VII. CHILD ABUSE ISSUES

1. A. Were you ever the victim of abuse as a child?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No (Skip to question 3)

   B. Was the abuse:
   [ ] A. Physical
   [ ] B. Sexual
   [ ] C. Emotional
   [ ] D. Neglect
   [ ] E. Other (explain) _____
   [ ] F. I have not been a victim

   C. If you were abused as a child, was the offender:
   [ ] A. A parent
   [ ] B. A family member
   [ ] C. A friend of the family
   [ ] D. An acquaintance
   [ ] E. A stranger

2. A. If you were a victim of abuse as a child, did you ever report it to anyone?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No
   B. If yes, who did you report it to?
   [ ] A. A parent
   [ ] B. A family member
   [ ] C. A friend
   [ ] D. A counselor
   [ ] E. Other (explain) _____

3. Did you know that Tennessee state law requires that persons working as child care providers must be screened for prior convictions of severe child abuse or child sexual abuse?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No

4. Do you believe such persons should be screened for these prior convictions?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No
   [ ] C. Don't know

5. Which of the following groups, if any, should be included in the screening process? (Check all that apply)
   [ ] A. Day care owners
   [ ] B. Day care workers
   [ ] C. Adoptive parents
   [ ] D. Foster parents
   [ ] E. Teachers
   [ ] F. Social workers
   [ ] G. Welfare workers
   [ ] H. State agency personnel such as Department of Human Services and Department of Youth Development
   [ ] I. Other (list) _____
   [ ] J. Screening should not be required for any person

6. State law currently requires screening for Tennessee convictions **only**. Should the process include screening for convictions of severe child abuse and child sexual abuse outside Tennessee?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No
   [ ] C. Don't know

7. The process required by state law only requires a screening for convictions of "severe child abuse" or "child sexual abuse". Should the person be screened for **any** felony conviction (a felony is a crime punishable by one year, or greater sentence)?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No
   [ ] C. Don't know

8. Should a person convicted of **any** felony be allowed to provide child care?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No
   [ ] C. Don't know

9. Should a convicted felon of sexual child abuse be allowed to live with or near children after completing their sentence?
   [ ] A. Yes
   [ ] B. No
   [ ] C. Don't know

VIII. YOUR CHARACTERISTICS (WILL BE USED FOR STATISTICAL ANALYSIS ONLY)

1. Sex: [ ] Male [ ] Female

2. How old are you? _____

3. What is your race or ethnic background?
   - [ ] A. White or Caucasian
   - [ ] B. African American
   - [ ] C. Mexican-American, Spanish, Chicano, or other Latin surname
   - [ ] D. Other (list) _____

4. Please check the number of years you have completed in school:

[ ]	1	[ ] 6	[ ] 11
[ ]	2	[ ] 7	[ ] 12 (High school graduate or GED)
[ ]	3	[ ] 8	[ ] Some college
[ ]	4	[ ] 9	[ ]College degree
[ ]	5	[ ] 10	[ ] Advanced college degree

5. In what type of dwelling do you live?
   - [ ] A. Apartment
   - [ ] B. House
   - [ ] C. Condominium
   - [ ] D. Mobile Home
   - [ ] E. Other (list) _____

6. What is your yearly family income? (personal income if single)
   - [ ] A. less than $3,000
   - [ ] B. $3,001 - $6,000
   - [ ] C. $6,001 - $10,000
   - [ ] D. $10,001 - $15,000
   - [ ] E. $15,001 - $25,000
   - [ ] F. $25,001 - $50,000
   - [ ] G. $50,001 and above

7. Are you:
   - [ ] A. Single
   - [ ] B. Married
   - [ ] C. Divorced
   - [ ] D. Widowed
   - [ ] E. Separated
   - [ ] F. Other (explain) _____

8. What is the population of the place where you live?
   - [ ] A. Rural
   - [ ] B. Less than 2,500
   - [ ] C. 2,501 to 10,000
   - [ ] D. 10,001 to 25,000
   - [ ] E. 25,001 to 50,000
   - [ ] F. 50,001 to 100,000
   - [ ] G. 100,001 to 250,000
   - [ ] H. 250,001 to 500,000
   - [ ] I. over 500,000

9. Which of the following best describes where you live? (Check one)
   - [ ] A. Rural area
   - [ ] B. Town away from urban area
   - [ ] C. Suburb of urban area
   - [ ] D. In a city but not in the central area
   - [ ] E. Central area of a city

10. What is your county of residence? _____

Thank you for completing the Survey of Crime and Justice in Tennessee. Please return this form in the enclosed envelope. Make any additional comments on the back of the front page.

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